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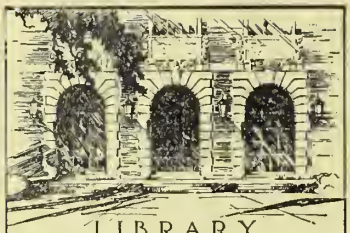

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EARLY CHRONICLES OF SHREWSBURY.

1372—1603.

TRANSCRIBED AND ANNOTATED

BY

REV. W. A. LEIGHTON, B.A. (CAMB.), F.L.S., &c.

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EARLY CHRONICLES OF SHREWSBURY, 1372—1603.

TRANSCRIBED AND ANNOTATED

By Rev. W. A. LEIGHTON, B.A. (Camb.), F.L.S., &c.

In the Library of the Royal Free Grammar School of Shrewsbury there has been long preserved a folio MS. volume generally known as "Dr. Taylor's MS." It is a folio 11½ inches by 8 inches, of 460 closely written pages. Prefixed is an elaborate Index, which has been torn away down to the letter E, and the end has been apparently similarly torn away. In this tattered condition Dr. Samuel Butler, Bishop of Lichfield, when Head Master, found it, and in 1814 caused it to be substantially bound. The writing is that of the age of Elizabeth, and, from various personal expressions, evidently compiled by some person who lived through the reign of Elizabeth and the early part of that of James I. There is nothing throughout the volume which will indicate the writer, but a note in pencil by the late Rev. J. B. Blakeway states that "I have heard that it was given to Dr. Taylor by Mr. Lyster of Rowton," and it may have been written by some individual of that family who resided at the Council House, their property. It is an interesting gossiping Chronicle of the principal events which occurred in England, France, and other portions of Europe, and would be well worth printing entire. To each year are prefixed the names of the Bailiffs of Shrewsbury. I have transcribed all that relates to Shropshire and Shrewsbury, and have added a few notes to illustrate or explain the text. Dr. John

Taylor bequeathed a portion of his Library to Shrewsbury School, and this MS. came with it. Dr. Taylor was Canon residentiary of St. Paul's, Chancellor of the diocese of Lincoln, and Archdeacon of Buckingham, a learned critic and philologist. He was born in Shrewsbury in 1704, and died in 1766. An elaborate Biography will be found in Archdeacon Owen's admirable work *Ancient and Present State of Shrewsbury*, 1808, p. 377—396.

Anno D'ni 1372-3. 46-47 Edw. 3. Thomas de Byringt'n, Roger Atteyate, Baylyffs of Salop.

1373-4 John Stury & Roger Mutton[1] Baylyffs.

1374-5 Richard de Ponsbery & John Geffereyc Baylyffs.

1375-6 William de Wythyford & Roger de Loryate,[2] Baylyffs.

1376-77 Reynold de Mutton & Thomas Preede,[3] Baylyffs.

1377-78 1 Richard 2nd William de Langworth[4] & John Geffereys, Baylyffs.

1378-79 William de Byryget'n & Jamys de Dyar, Baylyffs.

1379-80 Rychard de Beort'n & Wyllyam de Weston, Baylyffs.

1380-1 Wyllyam de Byryngt'n & Thomas Preede, Baylyffs.

1381-2 Thomas le Scynner & Rychard Russell, Baylyffs.

1382-3 Wm. de Byrynget'n & Hughe de Downefowe, Baylyffs.

1383-4 Thomas le Scynner & Thomas Preede, Baylyffs.

1384-5 Wyllyam de Byrynget'n & Reynolde Muttun, Baylyffs.

1385-6 Wyllyam de Byrynget'n & Hughe Wygan, Baylyffs.

1386-7 John Geffereys & Reynold de Muttoon, Baylyffs.

1387-8 Rychard Sturry & Wyllya' de Beri'gtoon, Baylyffs.

1388-9 Robart Thornes & Hughe Wygan, Baylyffs.

Ffrom thesse two baylyffs last before namyd and all hereafter following agree withe the Escheker boock in Salop and the sayd baylyffs now mad in the xij*th* yere of Rychard the second as aperthe in the sayde Escheker boock.

1389-90 Hughe de Dowford[5] & Jacob Le Dyar, Baylyffs.

1390-91 Reynold de Muttun & Robart de Grafton, Baylyffs.

1391-92 Symond de la Towar, & Rondle de Ffourde, Baylyffs.

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[1] Owen and Blakeway *History of Shrewsbury* 1, 526, say Reginald de Mutton.

[2] O. & B. loc. cit. say Roger de Foryate.

[3] O. & B. say Thomas Pride.

[4] O. & B. say Will. de Longnore.

[5] O. & B. say Hugh Donfowe.

1392-3 John Gefferey & Wm. de Beryngt'n, Baylyffs.
1393-4 Thomas de Preede & Wm. de Wylleleye Baylyffs.
1394-5 John Tyler & Rychard Alderscot, Baylyffs.
1395-6 Wm. de Berryngt'n & Reynold Scryven, Baylyffs.
1396-7 John Gefferey & Jacob Dyar, Baylyffs.

This yeare and the xxij*th* daye of January began a parlyme't w'che contynewyd almost tell Xr'as and the' was adiornyd to be kept at Shrosberye[1] at hyllary followinge.

1397-8 Wm. Wylleley & Nycolas Gerrard, Baylyffs.
1398-9 Robart Thornes & Wm. de Byrryngtoon, Baylyffs.

This yere kinge Rychard the second helld hys p'lyment in Shrosbery.[2]

This yere at the forsayd parliame't holde' at Shrousbery the Lord Reynold Cobbam[3] was condempnyd and to be exhilyd to the Iles of Gernsseye there to remayne as an exhilyd p'son.

1399-1400 (1 Henry 4th) Thomas de Pawnceley[4] and Rychard Alderscott, Baylyffs.
1400-1 Jacob le Dyar & Thomas Portar, Baylyffs.

This year Wm. Ponsbery[5] dyeed and lyethe in St. Alkmond's in Shrousberw.

1401-2 Robart de Grafton & Wm. de Beryngetoon, Baylyffs.

This yeare was seene in England a comott or blasinge starr of an hudge quantitie & there followyd p'sently after the Battellfylld.

This yeare the kinge wennt into Wales against Owen Glendowr wth an Armye but dyd no good because they convey'd themselves in unknown places, &c. M^d^ that the p'cell of Shrewsbery fylld or Battellfylld next ensinge most be here placed.

1402-3 Robart Thorns & John Scryven Baylyffs.

This yeare and the xxij*th* daye of July being fryday and Mary Mawdelens eeven was Shrausberys fyld at the battell

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[1] After the execution of the Earl of Arundel the King apprehended a rising of the Earl's tenantry, and as he purposed to seize his estates, he thought his iniquitous measures could be effected more easily in a provincial town. This O. & B. 1, 175, allege as the probable reason of Shrewsbury being selected.

[2] This parliament called the Great Parliament was held Jan. 29, 1397-8.

[3] Lord Cobham (or as O. & B. *loc. cit.* call him Sir John de Cobham) had been associated with the Earl of Arundel in opposition to the King.

[4] Thomas Paunteley O. & B.

[5] Many members of the Pontesbury family were buried at St. Alkmond's, see O. & B. 2, 288.

fild[1] where the P'sys were slayne and beheaded who rebellyd against Kynge Henry and were slayne at that battell many a nobleman more.

1403-4 Symond de La Towar & Wyllyam Fostar, Baylyfs.

1404-5 Thomas Skynner & Ryehard Sturry, Baylyffs.

1405-6 Wyllyam Towar, Wyllyam Beryngtoon & John Pearle junior, Baylyffs.

This yere Master Wm. Beringet'n[2] being as this yeare one of the baylys of Salop dycessyd and John Pearle was chosen and supplyed the place for the reast of the yeare.

1406-7 John Pearle junyor & John Scryven Baylyffs.

1407-8 John Glouer & Dauythe Rathebonne Baylyffs.

This yeare Sir Henry Perey yearle of Northumberland and father to one of the Persys that were slayne at Shrewsberie battell wth other commynge wth a greate companye agaynst the Kynge of England was slayne by the Shyreffe of Yorkeshyre and hys head strieke of wth another of hys lords wch ij heades were sennt upp to London.

1408-9 Ryehard Sturry & Nycholas Shettoon Baylyffs.

1409-10 Robart Thorns & Symo'de de La Towar Baylyffs.

This yeare Battellfilld colledge[3] beinge nere Shrosberie was foundyd by Kinge Henry the iiij*th* where he ou'eam Syr Henry Persy soon and others in remembrance of hys vyetorie.

This yeare one benet tuptu' beinge a comm'e beare bruar and dwellinge in St. Chadds churche yorde in Shrousberie nowe callyd the colledge[4] founded the Almeshowses in the

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[1] The details of this great battle must be sought for in O. & B. 1, 179-200.

[2] O. & B. call him "senior."

[3] The Charter of Henry IV. is as follows:—Henricus &c Omnibus &c Sciatis q'd de gra' n'ra speciali concessimus & licenciam dedimus Ric'o Huse armig^o^ q'd ip'e duas acras terre cum p'tinenciis in Adbrighton Huse in com. Salop jacentes in quodam campo vocato Hateleyfeld in quo bellum inter nos et Henr. Percy nup' adv'sarium n'rm defunctum & sibi adherentes extitit, dare possit & assignare dil'cis nobis Ro'go Yve capellano & Joh'i Miridin capellano in puram & p'petuam elemosinam divina singulis dieb' in quadam capella p' ipo's ibidem de novo faciend' edificand' & construend' p' salubri statu n'ro dum vixim' & p' ai'a n'ra cum ab hac vita migravim' & ai'a'b progenitor' n'ror & illor' qui in eodem bello interfecti fuerint & ibidem humati existunt necnon p' ai'ab' om'i fidelium defunctor' celebratur' impp'm &c Teste meipso apud Westmonast' viccsimo octavo die Octobris anno regni n'ri octavo.

[4] For a description of the College of St. Chad see O. & B. 2. 256.

sayd St. Chad's churche yorde in Shrewsbery being a man at that tyme of lx yeares of age.

1410-11 John Pearle junior & Wm. Towar Baylyffs.

1411-12 Nycholas Garrard & Wyllyam Hoorde Baylyffs.

1412-13 Dauythe Holbeche & Rychard Sturry. Baylyffs.

1413-14 (1 Henry 5) John Gammell[1] & John Glouer Baylyffs.

1414-15 Nycholas Shettune & Robart Horseleye Baylyffs.

1415-16 Dauythe Rathebonne & John Shettoon Bayl'.

1416-17 Roger Corbet & John Pearle Baylyffs.

1417-18 Roger Corbet & John Pearle Baylyffs.

Thesse baylyffs last reherssyd were chosse' agayne for thys yeare so that they occupied the office for ij yeares.

1418-19 Wyllyam Whoorde & John Ffostar[2] Baylyffs.

1419-20 Dauythe Rathboone & John Northampt'n Baylyffs.

1420-21 John Glouer & Robart Whytcoom Baylyffs.

This yeare frenche religious howses in Ffraunce and Abbeys wth frear howses in England were suppressyd.

1421-22 John Shettun & Robart Horsley Baylyffs.

1422-23 (1 Henry 6) John Pearle and Nycholas Shetton Baylyffs.

1423-4 Wyllyam[3] Towar & Vryan Semper Baylyfs.

This yeare and in the second yeare of Henry the vj*th* 1424 and in these balyves tymes one benet tupt'n bere bruar dyed who dwellyd in a brewehouse in St. Chadd's churche yorde in Shrosberie wch afterwards was and nowe of late dayes ys callyd the colledge and was burieed in St. Chadd's churche who laft behynde hym a doughter of hys namyd blase tupt'n who cam by chance to be a leeper and made the oryell wch goythe a longe the west syde of the sayd churche yarde throughe wch she cam a loft to heare s'ueys throughe a doore made in the churche wale and so passyd usually uppon the leades unto a glasse wyndowe throughe wch she dayly sawe and hard dayly serveys as longe as shee lyvyd.[4]

1424-5 John Gammel & John Glouer Baylyffs.

1425-6 John Shetton & Wyllya' Fostar Baylyffs.

This yeare and the xxvij daye of September was a terrible Earthequacke all England over wch dyd contynowe the space of two longe howres.

1426-7 Robart Whytcoom & Wyllyam Burley Bayl'.

1427-8 John Towar[5] & Wm. Whoorde Baylyffs.

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[1] O. & B. call him "senior."

[2] O. & B. say Roger Forster.

[3] O. & B. say John Tour.

[4] See O. and B, 256.

[5] O. & B. say William Tour.

This year John Malvorne[1] of oriall colledge in Oxford fynyshyd hys boock by hym made and namyd the Vysyons of Peerce Plowman.

This yeare in England was vereye unseasonable weether for it raynyd most pt. contynuallye from easter to mychelmas soom write from Aprell to Halloutyde.

1428-9 Nycholas Shetton & John Pawnton Bayl'.

1429-30 Roger Corbet & Rychard Whoorde Bayl's.

1430-1 Thomas Fostar & Vryan Semper Baylyffs.

1431-32 Wyllyam Whoorde & John Shetton junior Bayl's.

1432-3 Robart Whytcom & Thomas Thorns Bayl's.

1433-4 Nycholas Shettoon & John Knyght Bayly's.

1434-5 Thomas Forster & Wyllyam Burley Bayly's.

This yeare was a greate frost all England ove' the wch duryd xj weecks just by wch longe contynewance thamys at London was so frossen ov^r^. that marchandise was of forse karyed to Loondon by haunde.

1435-6 Rychard Whoord & John Fawlk Baylls.

This yeare were seene iij soonns at once at wch present followyd threefold rule in the churche or three man^r^ governme't.

This yeare was a greate tempest of wynde wch overthrewe steeples howses & treese.

1436-7 Thomas Thorns & John Beggett Baylyffs.

1437-8 Robart Whytcombe & John Scryven Baylyffs.

1438-9 John Gamell & Rychard Burley Baylyffs.

This yeare and the xxv*th* daye of November was a great wynde wch dyd mutche hurtt in London and other places.

1439-40 Wyllyam Burley and Thomas Wotley Baylyffs.

This yeare was a greate dearthe in England and in Fraunce that the poor people made them breade of fetches, peason, beanes and ferneroots.

1440-41 Thomas Thornes & Thomas Myttoon Baylyffs.

1441-2 Robart Whytcombe & John Myttoon Baylyffs.

1442-3 Rychard Burley & John Gamell Baylyffs.

1443-4 John Falcke & Thomas Wotley Baylyffs.

1444-5 Wyllyam Burley & Rychard Sturry Baylyffs.

1445-6 Roger Eytoon & Wyllyam Bastard Baylyffs.

This yeare the kynge gave to the towne of Shreusberig a newe composi'con.[2]

1446-7 Thomas Fostar & Adam Goldsmyth Baylyffs.

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[1] Malvorne was a monk of Lilleshall Abbey. Other writers give his name as William Langland. See *Salopian Shreds and Patches*, vol. 1, p. 8, 58, and 111, and vol. 2, p. 10.

[2] See O. & B. 1, 212.

This yeare dysseesyd S^r^. Gryffythe Vaughan beinge sergeant of the coyffe and lyethe burieed in St. Chaddes in Salop.

1447-8 John Knyght John Falcke & John Gamell Baylyffs.

This yeare John Fawlk died & John Gamell chose in hys place to be bayly.

1448-9 Wyllyam Burleye & Rychard Sturrye Baylyffs.

This yeare Arthor Keltun of Salop gentil' & poete dyeed & buried in St. Mary's.[1]

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[1] For particulars of the family of Kelton see O. & B. 2, 329-331. Arthur Kelton seems to have been born of a genteel family in Shropshire, tho' said to have been a Welshman: & after he had made a consid^ble^ progress in arts, applied his mind mostly to the read^g^ of the histories of Britain, wherein he much excelled in his riper years. But being withal very poetically given, he must forsooth write & publish his lucubrations in verse, wh'by for rhime's sake, many material matters, and the due timing of them, are omitted, and so consequently rejected by historians and antiquaries, as his Chronicle of the Brutes, Lond. 1547 in Oct.* printed in an old English character. The preface of which being also written in verse, is by the author directed to K. Edw. 6 at the end of the s^d^ chronicle is,

A Genealogy of the Brutes. This is drawn from Osiris the first King of Egypt down to K. Ed. 6, of England, and contains but about 32 generations, which shews that the author was ignorant in genealogies. He hath also written another book of poetry in praise of the Welshmen, dedicated to Sir Wm. Herbert, but this I have not yet seen, nor other (if any) of his things in prose. He was living at Shrewsbury in the time of K. Ed. 6, and for ought I know to the contrary, died also, and was bur. there.

I have discovered a pedigree of the Keltons of Shrewsbury in Bowen's collections for Shropshire among Gough's MSS. in the Bodleian. It commences with Arthur Kelton of Shrewsbury. The subject of the present article I conceive to have been son & h. to Thos. Kelton by Mary dau. of George Ponsbury. He marr^d^ Joan, dau. of Richd Morgan, and had issue William his s. & h. Here the pedigree concludes.

Kelton's *Book of Poetry in praise of the Welsh men* is perhaps one of the scarcest in the English language. Neither Wood, Ames, Warton, Herbert, Ritson, or any other writer on bibliography or poetry, appear to have seen it. I have, however, thro' the kindness

* *A Chronycle with a Genealogie declaryng that the Brittons and Welshmen are lineallye descended from Brute.* The Chronicle, says Herbert, (Typ. Antq. 523) appears to have been written in the time of K. Hen. 8, but, he dying before it was printed, the author dedicated it to K. Edw. 6. At the end is a genealogical scheme of the descent of Edw. 6 from Brute; it was printed by Richard Grafton in sixteens.

1449-50 Roger Eytoon & John Whoorde Baylyffs.

This yeare the burgesses and tenssars[1] in Shrewsbury dyd varye.

1450-1 Robarte Scryven & Thomas Lloyde[2] Baylyffs.

1451-2 Jenckyn[3] Gammell & Wyllyam Bastard Baylyffs.

This yeare began a commo'con by the Duke of Yorke and other noble men commynge out of the marches of Wales wch was apeacyd agayne for a time callyd the battell of Black heathe.[4]

1452-3 Rychard Sturry & Rychard Burley Baylyffs.

This yeare the Lord Talbott Erle of Shrosbery was slayne wth a goon in the losinge of Burdeux in France.

1453-4 John Cole & Phyllyp Grace Baylyffs.

1454-5 Wyllyam Burley & Robert Scryven Baylyffs.

1455-6 Roger Eytoon & John Trentam Baylyffs.

This yeare my lorde of Shrewsbery and John Trentam dyd mary and eyther of them had slayne a man.

1456-7 Rychard Sturry & John Whoorde Baylyffs.

1457-8 Nycholas Fytzharber & Roger Addys Baylyffs.

1458-9 Robart Scryven & Nycholas Stafford Baylyffs.

1459-60 John Trentam & Thomas Byry'gtoon Baylyffs.

Thys yeare to say 1460 and in Trentam and Byryngtons tyme being baylyffs and in the 39 yeare of Kynge Henry the vj*th* was gratyd the composition of the towne of Salop alias

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of a friend, obtained a sight of this very curious publi'con. The copy before me wants the title page, but I shall have no hesitation in attributing it to the press of Grafton, and the last page supplies the date, 1546. It commences on sign. a iii.

Mr. Bliss then gives extracts, and states that the concluding lines of the poem draw a very just character of the volume :—

> Go barberous boke, rusticall and rude,
> Full unworthy thankes for to haue,
> Oneles of benyng gratitude,
> Gentell reporte listithe the to saue,
> Nether arte thou pure, sincer, or graue ;
> Confesse thy faulte blushe out for shame,
> Thy wittes are past, thy termes out of fram.]

Wood's *Athenæ Oxon*, p. 166.

[1] Tensers were such as traded in the town without being burgesses ; for which liberty they paid such fines as by the court leet were set upon them. Phillips' *Shrewsb.* 168.

[2] O. & B. Lud or Luyt.

[3] O. & B. John.

[4] See O. & B. 1, 223.

Shreusberye and the fyrst xij Aldermen then chosen to assyst and accompany the baylyffs then and from thence furthe.[1]

1460-1 John Knyght and John Graftoon Baylyffs.

The same yeare was seene iij soons severally shyninge wch afterwarde closyd all three togeather in one.

1461-2 (1 Edward 4) Thomas Wynns & Thomas Stone Baylyffs.

1462-3 John Lloyd & Wyllyam Wotley Baylyffs.

1463-4 John Baxter & Hughe Hosyar Baylyffs.

This yeare was a greate pestelence wth a dry soomm' all England over and a harde wynter.

1464-5 Rychard Sturry & Thomas Myttoon Baylyffs.

1465-6 Roger Knyght & John Cowltoon Baylyffs.

1466-7 John Cowle & Edward Estope Baylyffs.

1467-8 John Trentam & Thomas Wotleye Baylyffs.

1468-9 Thomas Mytton & Thomas Goldsmythe Baylyffs.

1469-70 Wyllyam Wotley & Thomas Ponsbery Baylyffs.

Thys yeare one Jhon Humffrestoon[2] of Salop dyeed who lyethe buryeed in Sainct Alckemonds in the sayd churche there.

1470-1 Roger Knyght & John Baxter Baylyffs.

This yeare and in the moonthe of Apryll a° 1471. Nycholas Stafford gentyl'[3] dep'tyd thys p'sent lyffe who had been baylyffe of thys towne of Salop in Henry the vj*th* tyme who was a woorthy gentilma' & wyse.

1471-2 Hughe Hosyar & Rychard Watnor Baylyffs.

1472-3 Thomas Myttoon & John Trentam Baylyffs.

This yeare the Ducke of Yorke[4] was borne in the Blacke frears w^th^in the towne of Shrewsbery the wch frears standethe under Sainct Mary's churche in the sayde towne estward.

1473-4 Thomas Wotley & Thomas Ponspery Baylyffs.

1474-5 Wyllyam Wotley & Roger Hor'tun Baylyffs.

1475-6 John Cole & Robart Apenyon Baylyffs.

This yeare the Lord Marckes and the Lord Rytche went throughe Shrewsberye to Oswesterye.

1476-7 Thomas Myttoon & Thomas Thorns Baylyffs.

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[1] Consult O. & B. 1, 212, who place the date of this Composition as 1444.

[2] See his brass and inscription in O. & B 2, 288. He was a vintner in Shrewsbury and admitted a burgess, 15 Edw. IV.

[3] See an engraving of his incised slab in St. Mary's Church, and some account of his family in O. & B., 2, 397.

[4] Richard Shrewsbury, second son of Edward IV.

This yeare one Degory Waters[1] of Salop draper dyeed the xxviij*th* day of Julii A° 1477 and was buryed in Sainct Mary's churche in Salop in Trynytie Chappel he in hys lyffe tyme buylded all the Almshowsen in St. Marys churche yorde and dwellyd in the Almeshowse hall there amongst them and wold also kneele amo'gst them in the same churche in a fayre longe pewe made for them and hym selfe.

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[1] See O. & B., 2. 234-337.

28 July 1477 Degory Waturs of Shrewsbury Draper Will

Imprimis I bequeath my soul to God the Father Almighty & to our blessed Ladie & to all Saints & my body to be buried in the Church of the Colledge of St. Marie in town of Salop.

Item I geve to the newe buyldinge of the said Church xiij*s* iiij*d.*

to 3 orders of Fryars viz Preachers Mynas & St Austens . . . . . .

Devises to Richd. Watur of Salop Drap all his lands &c in Town & fields of Assleye co. Salop—also one pasture called Kencfye as it lyeth next Sutton—also one Shopp under the Guyld halle now in tenure of Wm. Sugden—also one Ten^{t} in the High S^{t}. in wh. s^{d}. R^{d}. now inhabiteth—also one Cottage in Shoppelogge now in tenure of Edwd. Leeche—also a cert^{n} rent from a Ten^{t}. in Marduall wh. John Watur his Bro. lately inhabited—also a rent from a Ten^{t}. in Frankvile in tenure of John Wicke, Glover—to hold as in a certain Deede thereof made more plainlie appeareth.

Bequeaths . . . . . towards building a certain Chimpney in the Drapers' Hall.

Bequeaths to Wardens of the Craft of Drapers for the repr'acons of the lightes on Corpus Christi daie & for cert^{n} o^{r}' ch'ges th'abouts . . . . . y'rly to be rec^{d} from cert^{n} Ten^{ts} to the s^{d} Fraty, or craft belg.

Gives to the Wardens of s^{d} Craft & to th^{r} succ'ors all his lands & ten^{ts} above not beq^{d} as in certain Deeds more plainlye appeareth, so that the Wards & th^{r} Succ'^{rs} fynde an honest & vertuous Prieste to cellybrate in the said Churche in a certain chappell called Heybourne Chappell for the salv^{n} of my soul my Parents & Benefactors Soules.

Also I will that the said Wardens of the s^{d} rents sh^{l} suffly susteyne the poor people in our Almashouse called St. Mary Almeshouse set next the Churche-yarde of the Colledge of St. Marie, in the s^{d} Town wth all the reprations to the s^{d} house belg.

If Wardens will not fulfil—power for Richd Watur to enter—& fulfil.

Gives to Thomas Maddox of Asteley my coossen—also to Richd Maddox—and to Maude Maddox. also to John . . . . & the residue of goods to Rich : W

Appts Richd W. Ex'or.

Witnessed by Sir John Colinc Sir Thomas . . . . Wm. Kinge Thos. Goldsmith, Wm. Sugdon Robt. Emery Roger Heylyn & many others.

1477-8 John Whoord & Roger Knyght Baylyffs.

1478-9 Thomas Wotley & Thomas Byryngtoon Baylyffs.

This yeare was there a greate dearthe, and also a greate deathe wch happenyd in England to say so fyrse and quycke a pestelence that there dyeed more therew^th^ then xv yeres warrs before wastyd w^th^in the space of iiij moenthes were brought to their graves.

1479-80 Thomas Goldsmythe & Wyllyam Sugedun Baylyffs.

1480-1 Thomas Mytton & Thomas Ponsbury Baylyffs.

1481-2 Thomas Thornes & John Baxter Baylyffs.

1482-3 John Whoord & John Gyttyns Baylyffs.

1483-4 (1 Richard 3) Rychard Wantnor & John Wotleye Baylyffs.

1484-5 Thomas Myttoon & Roger Knyght Baylyffs.

This yeare and the 24 day of Aprell dep'tyd thys present lyffe master Thomas Wotley[1] of Salop m'chant and maior and marchant of the staple at Callys who also had been soondry tymes baylyff of thys towne of Salope who lyethe buried in St. Jullyans churche there.

Thys yeare in the monthe of August 1485 Henry Earl of Rychmond cam owt of Bryttayne toward England wth a smale companye and landyd at Mylford haven in Wales nighe Pembroocke the vij daye of August havynge helpe inoughe in England and so marchynge forward beinge stayed at no place untyll he cam to the towne of Shrosberye where the gates weare shutt against hym and the p'cullys lett downe so the sayd Earles messenger cam to the gate to saye the Walshe gate commaundinge them to open the gates to theyre right Kynge and mast^r^ Myttoon made and swoore beinge head bayly and a stowt wyse gentilma' sainge that he knewe hym for no kynge but only Kynge Rychard to whom he was swoorne whose lyffe ten'nts he and hys fellowes weare and before he should enter there he should goe over hys belly me'ainge thereby that he wold be slayne to the grounde and so to roon ov' hym before he entryd and that he protestyd vehementlye uppon the othe he had tacken so the sayd Erle retornyd wth hys companye backe agayne to a vylledge callyd Forten iij myles from Sh'orsburie where he laye that nyght and in the morninge followinge there cam embassadors to speack wth the baylyffs requestinge to passe quyetlye and that the Erle theyre master dyd not meane to hurt the towne nor

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[1] Thomas Otteley one of the first Aldermen appointed under the Composition of Henry VI. (1444). He purchased the manor and lordship of Pitchford where his family continued for 10 generations.

non therin but to goe to trye hys right and that he promysyd further that he wold save hys othe and hym and hys fellowes harmeles upon thys they enteryd and in passinge throughe the sayd Myttoon lay alonge the grounde and hys belly uppward and so the sayde Earle steppyd ov' hym and savyd hys othe and so passinge furthe and marchinge forwards untyll he cam to a vyllage nere unto Lecester callyd Bossworthe where he met Kynge Rychard and hys enymys the xxij*th* of August beinge Mondaye A° dicto.[1]

1485-6 (1 Henry 7) Thomas Thorns & Nycholas Ponspery Baylyffs.

This yeare and the fyrst yeare of Kynge Henry the vij*th* was the fyrst begyninge of the sweatinge sycknes in England contynewinge above ij monthes so that there dyeed in the Cytie of London a greate number in the wch number dyed ij mayres and vj Aldermen so that it fell so to passe that thys p'sent yeare was iij maiors chosen in London one after another.

This yeare wheate was at iij*s* the bushell and bay sallt at ij*s* viij*d* and iij*s* the bushell in London.

1486-7 John Woord & John Baxter Baylyffs.

1487-8 Rychard Wantnor & John Wotley Baylyffs.

1488-9 Thomas Myttoon & Roger Knyght Baylyffs.

1489-90 Thomas Thorns & Thomas Ponspery Baylyffs.

1490-1 John Gyttyns & Robart Thorns Baylyffs.

This yeare was wheate sold at London for xx*d* the bushell wch the' was countyd deere.

1491-2 Thomas Trentam & Floriw Semper Baylyffs.

1492-3 Thomas Myttoon & Nycholas Ponspery Baylyffs.

1493-4 Wyllyam Cowle & Wyllyam Ponspery Baylyffs.

This yeare wheate was solde in London for vj*d* the bushell bay sallt at iij*d* ob. the bushell whyte sallt at vj*d* the bushell whyte herringe at ix*s* the barrel redd herringe at iij*s* the cade sprats at vj*d* the cade, and gascoyne wyne at vj*li* the twnn.

And about thys tyme began the fowle scabbe and horryble syckness called the freanche pocks.

1494-5 John Gyttyns & Larrance Hosyar Baylyffs.

This yeare a barrell of whyte herringe was solde for iij*s* iiij*d*.

This year 1495 and in these baylyffs tymes the Escheker was paynted wi^th^n furthe wth antycke woorck and the Armes

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[1] See O. & B., 244.

of England and Wales displayed wth the Armes of the towne of Salop very beutyfully to behold.

This yeare the Kynge and the queene of England wth prynce Arthor cam to Shrosbery[1] and the same yeare the check^{r} there was ordaynyd and newe franches grauntyd.

1495-6 Nycholas Waringe & Hughe Walkar Baylyffs.

1496-7 Thomas Myttoon & Edward Hosyar Baylyffs.

Thys yeare was a cage of wood made uppon the Walshe brydge and se^{r}tte' come pryveys bothe for men and wome' for theyre eassme'ts whosoev'.

1497-8 Roger Thornes & Rychard Forster Baylyffs.

1498-9 Wyllyam Cowle & Larrance Hosyar Baylyffs.

Thys yeare good Gascoyne wyne was sold in London for xl*s* the toon and whete for iiij*s* the quarter wch ys after vj*d* the bushell and bay salt for iiij*d* the bushell.

1499-1500 Nycholas Ponspery, John Lloyd Gyttyns[2] & Nycholas Warynge Baylyffs.

This yeare Nycholas Ponspery beinge baylyff of the towne of Shrewsberey decessyd and was chosse' in hys place Nycholas Waringe who supplyed the place untyll the yeres ende.

1500-1 Thomas Myttoon & Thomas Trentam Baylyffs.

This yeare was a greate pestelence in the cyty of Londoon by reason whereof the kynge and queene saylyd to Callys.

This yeare dyeed Larrance Hosyar gentil' who had be'n sondry tymes baylyff of thys towne of Salop and was buryeed in the northe syde of St. Maris churche there wthin the same churche.

1501-2 Thomas Knyght & Edward Hosyar Baylyffs

This yeare decessyd one Wm. Sugedoon Alderman of thys towne of Shrosbery the viij*th* daye of November beinge master of the company of the Drapers and had ben baylyffe of thys towne of Salop who lyethe buryed in Saynct Chadds churche there.

This yeare Ladye Katheryn daughter to Ferdinando Kynge of Spayne landyd at Plymmouthe in England ye 4th October who was maryed wthin x dayes after hyr aryvall unto prynce Arthor in Powles churche wch Arthor dyeed at Ludlowe the seconde of Apryll followinge and was buried at Worcester.

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[1] In Phillips' *Hist. Shrewsb.* is an account of the expenses of entertaining the royal visitors.

[2] O. & B. call him John Lloyt.

This yere was deereed that thosse names wch might call the ellecton should be put in a bagge for indyfferency & ij of them pullyd out.

1502-3 Wyllyam Cowle & Rychard Dychar Baylyffs.

1503-4 Rychard Myttoon & Thomas Wythyford Baylyffs.

1504-5 Thomas Myttoon Roger Forster & Wyllyam Myttoon Baylyffs

This yeare dyeed Thomas Myttoon beinge baly of thys towne of Shrousberie and Wm. Myttoon chosen in hys place.

1505-6 Roger Thornes & Thomas Knyght Baylyffs.

1506-7 Rychard Lyster & Edwarde Hosyar Baylyffs

1507-8 Thomas Trentam & Edward Knyght Baylyffs.

1508-9 (1 Henry 8) Wyllyam Myttoon & Thomas Wythyford Baylyffs.

1509-10 Roger Thornes & Thomas Knyght Baylyffs.

1510-11 Nycholas Waringe Davyd Ireland & Edward Hosyar Baylyffs.

This yeare dyceassyd Nycholas Waringe beinge baylyffe of the towne of Shrosberye and Edward Hosyar was chosen in hys place.

1511-12 Thomas Trentam & Sr Thomas Kynnaston Baylyffs.

1512-13 Wyllyam Myttoon Thomas Trentam & Rychard Myttoon Baylyffs.

This yeare dyeed Syr Thomas Kynnaston late Baylyff of Shrosberye and lyethe buried in Saynct Marys churche who was a woorthy Knyght.

This yeare Wm Mytton dyed & Rychard Myttoon chosen in hys place.

1513-4 Thomas Knyght & Wyllyam Jannyns Baylyffs.

This yeare died Mr. Wm. Myttoon and lyethe buried in St. Marys churche by the hyghe aulter uppon the west syde of the same.

1514-15 Rychard Pursell & Roger Luter Baylyffs.

This yeare 1514 and in the begynni'ge of these baylyffs tymes one Thomas Ponspery[1] soomtyme baylyffe of thys towne of Salop decessyd and lyethe burieed in St. Alkmonds churche there.

1515-16 Robart Dudley & Roger Thorns Baylyffs.

1516-17 Thomas Trentam & Thomas Hosyar Baylyffs.

This yeare there was sutche a frost in England so extreme and of sutche contynuance wch was for the space of almost vj weeks.

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[1] See the inscription on his brass in O. & B., 2, 288.

This yeare decessyd Thomas Trentam wthin ij or three dayes before the elect'on of the newe baylyffs.

1517-8 Thomas Knyght & Wyllyam Jannyns Baylyffs.

This yeare dyeed in England many of the swetinge sicknes wth a generall famyn and pestelence.

1518-9 Rychard Mytton & Rychard Purcell Baylyffs.

1519-20 Thomas Wythyford David Ireland & Roger Luter th' elder Baylyffs.

Thys yeare Wythyford beinge baylyffe of thys towne of Shrewsbury dyed who lyethe burieed in St. Mary's churche there and Roger Lut' chosen in hys place.

This yeare was a generall chapter of blacke frears in the towne of Shrosbery.

1520-1 Rondle Byston & Edward Bent Baylyffs.

This yeare and in these baylyffs tymes one Gryffythe ap Yevan ap Davyd alias Gryffythe Nycknam a cruell and notable outlawe of Wales was tacke and brought to Shrewsbery and there had hys iudgeme't to be hangyd drawne and quarteryd and hys hed sennt to thys towne of Shrosberie wch was put up uppon the topp of the Welshe gate there, and the cause why he cam to be an outlawe or rebell ys thys he was an honest man and a good farmar dwellynge at a farme in Wales callyd mycknym and so in p'cesse of tyme usually callyd Gryffythe mycknym be so surnamyd throughe hys dwellinge uppon the sayd farme place so namyd yet notwthstandinge further usurpyd and nowe of late days callyd and commynyd ov' uppon the name of gryffethe nycknam thys gryffythe uppon a certe' tyme having a number of cattell stolle from hys farme place (as in thosse days Wales was soomwhat wylld one stelinge from another) the calves of wch kyne machinge sutche bletinge noyse and pytyfull crye that he was soe and in sutche greevyed agony that he wylfully drove the' all bei'g about the number of xi in to a dcepe water harde upon hys farme and drownyd them and so uppon the same made a wyckyd vowe sware a desperate wothe that he wold never contente hymselfe before he had spoylyd that kynrad that had stolle hys kyne and so p'sently gave hym sellffe to owlarye and dyd many wyckyd deads wch he confessyd at hys execuc'on and especyally that wch grevyd hym most wch was that he mett wth a wooman wth chylde and throughe occasyon of talk slewe hyr and ryppyd the childe out of hyr belly and tossyd it uppon hys speare toppe sprallinge quycke and havynd delyte to see it so dye wch was kynn to the wch stole hys cattell.

This yeare was a greate plage in London and in many other placys of the realme.

1521-2 Roger Thorns & Thomas Hosyar Baylyffs.

1522-3 Robert Dudley & Edmund Cowle Baylyffs.

This yeare was a parlyment at the black frears at London and the burgessys for the wch parlyme't for the towne of Shrewsbery weare apoynted master Edmond Cole & Mr. Adam Myttoon in the wch parlyme't was grauntyd a greate subsedye.

This yeare one Morrys Mynttoon of thys towne of Shrewsberie and beinge one of the Counsell of the sayd towne died and was buried in the ladie chappell in St. Chadds churche there beinge a verteous man and a good occupyer and dyd put many poore people on woorcke.

1523-4 Adam Mytton & Wyllyam Gennyns Baylyffs.[1]

This yeare 1524 and the xxiij*th* of Ap'll dyscessyd master Edward Burtoon[2] gentil' and lyethe buryed in St. Chadds churche in Shrosberie w^th^in St. Gorgys chappell there.

This yeare was wheate at iiij*s* the bushell and rye at ij*s* x*d* in the towne of Shrewsberie.

1524-5 Davyd Ireland & Rondle Byston Baylyffs.

This yeare in the towne of Shrewsberie wheate was sold for vj*d* a bushell and rye at iiij*d* the bushell.

1525-6 Roger Thornes & Thomas Hosyar Baylyffs.

This yeare golde was inhaunsyd by p'clamacon to say the frenche crowne at iiij*s* vj*d* the Angell at vij*s* vj*d* and the Ryall at xj*s* ij*d* and so ev'y pece after the valo'r aforesayd.

This yeare the plage[3] was in the towne of Shrewsbery.

This yeare was unsesonable wether in England that it raynyd from the xij*th* of Aprell to the thryd of June day and nyght contynuallye wch was vij weecks and ij dayes.

1526-7 Robat Dudley & Edward Bent Baylyffs.

This yeare was sutche scassetie of all things in England by reason of the unseasonable weather in England aforesayd that manye dieed for default of breedde.

This yeare in August was Rye at ij*s* iiij*d* and wheate at iij*s* iiij*d* the bushell in Shrosberie.

This yeare wheate was at London at xvs. the quarter.

1527-8 Addam Mytton & Wyllyam Bayly Baylyffs.

1528-9 Edmond Cowle & David Ireland Baylyffs.

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[1] O. & B. say William Bayly.

[2] See an engraving of his incised alabaster slab (now in Atcham Church) in O. & B. 2, 230.

[3] In 1525 great numbers died of the plague, which was followed by a dearth. Phillips' *Shrewsbury*, 17.

This yere dyed Rog' Luter of Salop gentill' & lyethe buried in ye lady chapell in St. Chadds.

1529-30 Thomas Hosyar & Rondle Byston Baylyffs.

1530-1 Roger Thornes & Rychard Bryckdale Baylyffs.

This yeare 1531 dyed Master Roger Thorns[1] callyd the wyse thorns of Shrosbery for that bothe towne and countrey repayred to hym for advyse whoe gydyd this towne polytyckely & lyethe buried in St. Mary's chu'che.

1531-2 Robart Dudley & Addam Mytton Baylyffs.

This yeare was there a plage[2] agayne in thys towne of Shrewsbery.

1532-3 Thomas Byryngton & Nycholas Pursell Baylyffs.

This yeare and in thesse baylyffs tymes was one John Goldsmythe a yonge man was drawen throughe Shrosberie and hangyd for coyninge of money approvid uppon hym.

1533-4 Edmund Cowle & Thomas Hosyar Baylyffs.

This yeare 1533 uppon twelfft daye in Shrewsbury the dyvyll apearyd in Sainct Alkmonds churche there when the preest was at highe masse wth greate tempest and darknes so that as he passyd throughe the churche he mountyd up the steeple in the sayde churche teringe the wyer of the sayde clocke and put the prynt of hys clawes uppon the iiij*th* bell and toocke one of the pynnacles awaye wth hym and for the tyme stayed all the bells in the churches w^thin the sayd towne that they could neyther toll nor rynge.

1534-5 Rychard Hussey Wyllyam Bayly & John Waters Baylyffs.

This yeare also all the abbeys and pryories wth nooneries in all England were vysyted by one Doctor Lee beinge auctorisyd by the kings m^ti.

This yeare Wyllyam Bayly beinge one of the baylyffs of Salop as thys yeare dysceassyd at bartlemowtyde and John Waters chosen in hys place for to serve out the wast of the yeare.

1535-6 John Thorns & David ap Owen Baylyffs.

This yeare were all the chantries presented to the queenes m^ti.

This yeare were smal howses of religion suppressyd.

This yeare there cam iij Ducks throughe Shrewsbery to say the Ducke of Rychemoond the Ducke of Northefolke and the Ducke of Suffolke wth a greate retynewe.

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[1] See O. & B. 2, 398.

[2] This plague is not mentioned by Phillips.

This yeare was chardge gyven ov' all Englaund that the pater noster, creede and tenn comma'dyme'ts to be lernyd and sayd in Englyshe.

This yeare was a greate plage[1] in Shrewsberye.

This yeare was a maltman slayne in grope lone in Shrewsburie wth the fall of a wecke chymney in an old howse there wch fell upon hym in tying the horse there after he had pytchyd hys loade.

1536-7 Nycholas Pursell & Roger Lewys als' Pope Baylyffs.

This yeare was there an Earthequacke in the towne of Shrewsberie.

1537-8 Edmund Cowle & Adam Myttoon Baylyffs.

This yeare all the notable Imagys in England unto the wch people usyd to goe to in pylgremage weare utterly taken awaye wth all shrynes.

This yeare all the abbeys and frear howsen in England were suppressed theyre goodes tacken to the kyng's use.

This yeare lord Croomwell beinge Lord Pryvey seale and vicegere't to the king's m^ti^ sennt furthe Iniunctions to all byshopps and curats throughe the realme charginge them to see that in ev'y parryshe churche the byble of the largyst volume pryntyd in Englyshe weare placedd for all men to reede on and that a boocke of regester were also provydid and kept in ev'y p'rishe churche wherein shalbe wrytten ev'y weddinge christ'ninge & burieinge w^th^in the same p'yshe for ev'.

1538-9 Thomas Byrryngtoon & Thomas Irelande Bayl'.

This yeare dyed Thomas Hosyar and Robt. Dudley beinge Aldermen and of good callinge in thys towne of Salop.

This yeare one Rychard Brewer of Salop beinge Ih'on Brewers soonn the brewar was soddenly slayne passinge throughe the gate of the Walshe bridge in Shrosbery by the reasoon of a great flare of wynde blewe the gates togeather as he passyd the same that hys head beinge betwexet them re^d^ sutche a blowe that the braynes fell owt, and so p'sently died and never spack woorde.

1539-40 Davyd Owen Rychard Atkys & Rychard Bryckedale Baylyffs.

This yeare ste' Abbotts and preests of England weare hangyd drawe' and quarterr'd in soondry places of the realme for denyeinge the Kyngs Supremesy.

This yeare was there a greate dearthe and drought in all England that there wold have ben gyven one bushell for the gryndinge of another.

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[1] This occurrence of the plague is not noticed by Phillips.

This yeare deceassyd Davyd Owen beinge one of the baylyffs for this yeare and Rychard Bryckedale was chosen in hys place.

1540-1 Nycholas Pursell & John Mackwoorth Baylyffs.

This yeare Thomas Davys al's Fletcher being sergiant as this yeare to master Nycholas Pu'sell baylyffe wyckydly murtheryd on the Walshe bridge in Shrosbery on namyd Carr a jurneyman of Thomas Jucks of Shrosbery Shomacker and furthe wth the sayd sargiant fledd to Callys & after had hys p'doon.

This yeare was a p'clamacon y^t^ the byble in Englishe shulde be had in ev'y parishe churche in Englaund.

1541-2 Adam Myttoon & Edward Hosyar Baylyffs.

This yeare the kinge toock a great loane of money of the subiects of Englaund.

1542-3 Rychard Myttoon & Thomas Byryngtoon Bayliffs.

This yeare and the xxvij*th* of January Byshop Rowland[1] beinge lorde presydent of the marches of Wales was burieed in St. Chaddes churche before the highe ault' there under a toombe of marble stone beinge one the right hand who brought Wales beinge at hys fyrst comy'ge very wylde in good syvilitie before he dyed who said he wold macke the whyte sheepe keepe the blacke.

1543-4 Thomas Ireland[2] & Roger Luter Baylyffs.

This yeare chaunsyd iiij Eclypses one of the soon the xxiiij*th* of January and iij of the moone a strange thing and suche as hathe not happenyd sethins the tyme of Charles the greate.

This yeare was gold inhawnsyd and basse money coynyd.

1544-5 Humphrey Onslowe & Nycholas Pursell Baylyffs.

This yeare all the Stues and brothell howses in all England were put downe.

1545-6 Thomas Moongombery & Rychard Dawys Baylyffs.

This yeare and the xxiiij*th* of November a Parlyme't begun at West' by auctorytie whereof was grauntyd to the kinge a subsedie of ij*s* viij*d* the pounde of goods and iiij*s* the pounde of Laundes to be payd for ij years space and all colledges chauntres and hospytalls gyve to the Kinge to a better ordere for the glory of god and common welthe.

This yeare and the xxij*th* day of January 1545 and in these baylyffs tymes there was a greate floodd in Shrosbery and the

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[1] Rowland Lee Bp. of Lich. & Cov. 1534-1543, died at the College of St. Chad, of which his brother, George Lee, was Dean.

[2] O. & B. call him "senior."

xxij*th* daye the stoane gate[1] of the same towne there at v of the clocke in the morninge fell downe and beinge therin at the fall a prysonar for fellonye who was so woonderfully and myracuously savyd contrary to all p'sons expecttac'on and dores & wynde's barryd and lockyd and also bolts on hys feate for the wch he was lett goe and pardonyd.

This yeare the xvj*th* day of July 1546 were burnyd in Smythefilld iiij p'sons whose names were mystres Ann Askewe a gentilwoman borne to good lyvyinge Nycholas Otterdon preest a Shropshyreman, John Adams a taylor of London and John Lassells gentil of the courte and housholld of Kinge Henry the viij*th* all iiij burnyd togeather and Doctor Shaxton[2] soomtyme byshop of Salysburie preached in a pulpyd made there at the same fyere and there recantyd p'swadinge them to do the lyke but they wold not.

1546-7 Adam Mytton & Roger Lewys al^s^ Pope Baylyffs.

This yeare Images were commaundyd to be put downe and owt of the churches, and beades, and precession forbydde', and preests grauntyd to marry in England.

This yeare in Adam Myttoon and Roger Popes tyme the pycture of o^r^ Lady owt of St. Mary's in Shrosbery and the picture of Mary Mawdelen and the pycture of St. Chaddes owt of Sainct Chadds churche in the same towne were weare all three burnyd in the market place there commonly callyd the corne marcket.

This yeare and in the foresayd baylyff's tymes the boothe hall in Shrosbery was reedyfyed to saye walls and ruffs by master Humffrey Onslowe of the same towne and all thoughe the towne allowyd hym parte yett it cost hym dooble so mutche of his owne purce therefore most woorthy of the prayse therein.

1547-8 (1 Edward 6) Edward Hosyar and Wm Whytakers Baylyffs.

This yeare in November and in the fyrst yere of Edward the vj*th* there was a parlyme't helde wherin was g'antyd and gyve' to the Kynge all chaunteries, free chappells and broothe'-hoods, the communyon to be mynystreed in bothe kyndes and churche serveys to be sayd in Englyshe throughout all England.

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[1] This was what is now called the English Bridge.

[2] Nicholas Shaxton was elected Bishop of Salisbury 1535 but resigned 1539 for not subscribing to the Six Articles.

The sargints names were Robart Webster com'e, Davyd Yevans, Ric' ap Ric' who went a warfare[1] . . . .

1548-9 Thomas Byryngetoon & John Mackwoorthe Baylyffs.

This yeare was set furthe in England by aucthorytie of Parlyment a boocke made for the unyformytie of common prayer and the admynystrac'on of Sacrame'ts in Englyshe and the masse was cleane abolyshyd.

This yeare & the tuesday after Ester hollydays ij yonge me' of Salop whose names were Edmonde Reynolds & Roba't Clarcke were smootherid under the castell hill hiding the' selves from mayds the hill fallinge p^{t} therof upon the'.

This yere were chose' s'gyants for Salop Roger Woorrall com'e Wm Pyper & Hughe Barbure.

1549-50 Rychard Myttoon and Humffrye Onslowe Baylyffs.

This yeare Sir Rowland Hyll beinge as thys yeare maior of London free of the mercers and a Shropshyre man whose goodd deades and lyberalitie to the poore are not to be hydden that ys to say he was a grave and woorthy father of the cytie and longe before hys deathe he gave ov' hys occupy'eg gyvinge hym sellffe wholy to purchasing of launds havinge never a chyld in the world the grettyst part of hys launds lay in Shroppshyre where he bare greate rule and never raysyd rennts nor toocke any fyne of hys tenannts he suffryd the chyllde to inioy the fathers farme before all others he was the frynd of the wydowe & fatherles, he gave yearely to the poore people of the contrey iij^{c} shyrts and smocks and as many frocks and coates to cov' them wthal, he made a causey iiij myles of leangthe from Stone to Nontw^{ch} he made also a cawsey in Warwyckshyre of ij myles of leangthe to say from Donchurche to Branson and gave xx^{l} in ready money towards the mackinge of Roytton brydge iij myles from Coventry he made the highe way to Kylboorne near unto London, he made iiij brydgs ij of them of stone h'inge bothe xviij arches to say the one ov' the ryv' of Sevarn callyd Atcham brydge and thoder Terne bridge and thoder two of tymber at Stocke and

[1] This is the first mention in the MS. of the Sergiants, whose office was considered as of some importance. They were to be burgesses and residents and to be annually elected. Their duty was to carry the maces before the Bayliffs and to execute all writs and processes. Amongst the Corporation Plate are 3 silver maces respectively of the age of Henry VII. Elizabeth and Charles I. At Bridgnorth the mace is surmounted by a crown which is made to unscrew and form a drinking cup. An excellent Paper on "Civic and other Maces" is in the *Antiquary*, Jan. 1880, p. 66.

he buylt a good p^{t} of Stock churche, he buylded a notable free scoole at Drayton in Shropshire wth master and usher and sufficient stipende for them bothe for ev' he also purchasyd a free fayre to the sayde towne wth a free m'ket weeckely and a fre'e marcket for cattell ev'y xiiij dayes he gave also to the relceffe of the poore in the hospytalls in London in hys lyffe tyme v^{cli} and at hys deathe he gave j^{c} pounds to the poore of all the wardes in Londoon besyds many other charitable and naturall deads as helpinge and preferringe his poore kynsfolks and servaunts to great lyvings and p'motions.

This yeare about thys tyme the Lord maior of Lond' beinge Sr Rowland Hyll and hys breethren the Alderme' purchasyd the borowe of Southwarcke lyberties belonging to the same wch was in the kyngs hands.

This yeare and in thesse baylyffs tymes dysceassyd John Mynton of this towne of Shrosbery draper and dyeed a batchelar & of greate wealthe he laft c^{li} to the poore he was not unmyndfull of hys kynsfolks he dyeed a faythefull X'rian and a true constant p'testant he was a true occupyar and delyd justly wth all thosse Sherme' that wrought for hym he never stoppyd wth them any pency but payde the' alwas redy money.

This yeare dysceassyd mystres Katheryn Dudleye a vertuous wooman and very very bowntyfull to the poore in feedinge and clothinge in her lyffe tyme as also at hyr deathe many a hongry sowle.

This yeare trynytie tearme was reioarnyd untell mychelmas because the gentylme' should tarry at home to keepe the people in quyett from commocyons.

The S'giats were Thomas Fysher come' Richard Owen & Edward Harcoote.

1550-1 Nycholas Pursell & Thomas Irelande Baylyffs.

This yeare the swetinge sycknes[1] raignyd in England and began fyrst in thys towne of Shrowsbery the xxij*th* of Marche and ran through the realme and began in London the ix*th* of Julii and contynewyd there not passing a weecke and dyeed there the number of viij*c* p'soonns of the towads youthe in all the cyte and in theyre best tyme and the sayd Swatt fell uppon non but Englyshmen and followyd Englyshe men not onely wthin the realme but in forayne countreys beyonde the sease wch was a greate exsample to England of gods gentyll correct'on.

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[1] See O. & B. 1. 344, for this disease, and Dr. Caius *Boke or Counseill* of the same. For the nature of this sweating sickness and regimen for its cure, see Phillips, p. 17.

This yeare and the ix*th* of July the basse money wch was coyned in the tyme of Kinge Henry the viij*th* and Kynge Edward the vj*th* was p'claymyd the shylling to goe but for ix*d* the grote for iij*d* wch toock effect immediately after the p'clamacon.

This yeare and the xvij*th* daye of August was another p'clamac'on of the bateme't of moneye the shyllinge that was brought to ix*d* was abassyd to vj*d* and the iiij*d* to ij*d* and the ij*d* to j*d* and the peny to a halfe penye.

This yeare and about thys tyme were seene dyv' strange and monsterews things as iij soonns iij moones somtymes pale sometymes bloodye in marvellows fryghtfull order.

The S'giats this yere were Roger Wright com'es Peerse Wright & Harry Fallows.

1551-2 Roger Luter & Rychard Whyttacks[1] Baylyffs.

This yeare and the xviij*th* daye of October one Elizabethe Byckerstaffe was buryed in St. Chaddes in Shrosbery who was murtheryd by one Thomas Byckerstaffe hyr kynesman and one Thatcher wch murther was doon by the sayd p'ts vij weecks before shee was foonde to say in the moonthe of August 1551. the man' of the murther was thus, thys Elyzabethe Bycker' beinge an agyd wooma' kept the sayde Byckerstaffe beinge kynn unto hyr, for charytie sake from a chyld tyll he cam to mans state and suckeryd hym styll and at the lengthe confederatyd hym selffe wth the sayd Thatcher and cruelly in hyr bedd murtheryd hyr in cruell man' cuttinge of hyr head armes legs & thyghes and so buryed hyr unde' hyr bedd in the grownde and made up the place fayre againe and the next daye he made great a doe and requestyd that serche should be made bothe in fylds and waters lest she should be myschansyd or drownd upon this greate serche was made but could not be founde wher uppon the sayd Byckerstaffe seamyd to lament mutche and then stayd untyll the landlorde cam to strayne for rennt and to make an entry for no payme' and want of reparac'ons and beinge in the howse a stenche, the dogge who cam w$_{th}$ hym scrapyd under the bedd and so suspecting the p'myses the grownd was presenntly diggyed and so foounde hyr there buried wth shyppes heades and other boanes cast in w^{the} hyr and presently Byckyrstaffe was tacke' and executed accordingely and shortly after Thatcher after hys fyrst escape retoornyd and was in lyke case aprehendyd and executyd.

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[1] O. & B. say Whittakers.

This yeare and the xxx of October was publyshyd by p'clamacon serten newe coynes bothe of gold and syl' to say soveraigns of fyne gold at xxx*s*. angells of fyne gold at x*s*. and dyv' other gold of lesser valewe a pece of sylv' of v*s*. a pece of ij*s*. vj*d*. a pece of xij*d*. and soondry other smale peces of moneye.

This yeare by the labor of one Hughe Edwa'ds of Salop and late of London merc' and master Rychard Whyttacks being as thys yeare one of the baylyffs of thys towne of Shrewsbery was laboryd to the Kyngs m^{ti} for anwetie of xx*li*. for and towa'ds the mayntenance of a free scoole[1] in the sayde town of Shrewsbery for ev' wch was obtaynyd to the greate p'ferm't of the youthe of that towne and the quarters there adioyninge in good lerni'ge and godly educac'on the wch scoolehowse ys sytuat nere unto the castell gate of the same towne uppon a goodly p'spect.

This year and the xxiij*th* daye of Maye 1552 a servant of Thomas Reynolds bruar was drownyd at the Walshe brydge in Salop foond agayne & burieed in St. Chads the same daye.

This yeare was a parlyme't in the wch prests childre' were made legyttymate and userie for the loane of money forbydde'.

This yeare and towards the latt' ende of these baylyff's tymes the Stoane gate of this towne of Shrewsburye was made up agayne in better force and coomlyer maner then it was before.

The S'gyants names were John Meredeth comes Edward Clarck backar & John Blesse.

1552-3 (I. Mary) Syr Addam Myttoon & Roger Lewys als' Pope Baylyffs.

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[1] Edward VI (10 Feb. 6 regni) founded a free grammar school in Shrewsbury to endure for ever and to be called "a free grammar schoole of Kinge Edwarde the sixt for the education bringing upp and instruction of children and youthe in grammar" to have one schoolmaster and one under-schoolmaster. For this purpose he gave to the town of Shrewsbury his tithes of "Sheffe blades, grayne and hey" in Astley, Sensawe, Clyffe, Leiton and Almond Park lately belonging to the dissolved College of B.V.M. Shrewsbury, also the tithes in Frankewell, Belton, Woodcott, Horton, Bickton, Calcott, Shelton, Whitley and Whelbache lately belonging to the dissolved college of St. Chad Shrewsbury; the clear annual value of all which was then £20. 8. 0; the corporation to appoint a schoolmaster and under-schoolmaster and (with the advice of the bp of Lichf.) to make statutes for the order of the school, the masters' salaries and other things affecting the interests of the school. The town appointed Tho. Asheton master and Tho. Lawrance under master. Baker's *Hist. of St. John's College, Cambridge.* Vol. i., p. 405.

This yeare and the thryd of October were testame'ts p'vyd in St. Chads Churche in Salop.

This yeare and in these baylyffs tymes the condyt in Shrosbery was begoon and wrought in woodden pypes.

The xxvij*th* daye of August the serveys began in Latten at Poules churche in London after the use of Sarum.

This yeare and the iiij*th* of Septe'ber was proclaymyd certayne newe coynes bothe of gold and sylver that ys to saye soveraig's of fyne gold of xxx*s*. the peece the halfe soveraig'e callyd the Royall at xv*s*. an angell of x*s*. the halffe angell v*s*. and of sylv' the Mary grote the half grote and penny and the base money to be currant and to goe as before that p'clamac'on dyd.

The same tyme also the queene pardonyd by p'clamac'on the subsydy of iiij*s*. the pounde Lands and ij*s*. viij*d*. the pounde of goods grantyd in the last parlyme't of Kynge Edward the vj*th*.

This yeare also and the daye aforesayde one Edward Stephens[1] beinge curate of St. Chadds church in Shrosberye beinge marieed and all other maryed prests of the same dyoses were forbydden to selebrate any more uppon they're perrells by the ordynarye.

This yere the iij sargya'ts names were John Blackewey comme' sergia't Thomas Barker & Thomas Larrance.

1553-4 Rychard Myttoon & Rychard Dawys Baylyffs.

And soone after in thys presennt moonthe [October] the queene soommonyd hyr hyghe courte of parlyme't at Westme'ster in the wch was repellyd all Statutes that were made eyther of prymenery in the tyme of Kynge Edward the vjth and Kinge Henry the eyght or co'cerninge religion and administrac'on of Sacraments under Kynge Edward the vjth and masse and Latten serveys and all the olde relygyon was wholy restoryd agayne and the devorsement of Queene Katheryn was made unlawfull and a communycac'on was had in the sayde p'lyment of the queenes mariage wth Kynge Phyllypp of Spainge.

This yeare one Sr Thomas Whyte beinge maior of London p'vydyd to be dd' in a^{o} 1593 104*li* to be delyverid from the ma'cha't taylors hall in London for Shrewsberie to be d'd' there to 4 yonge occupyars especially beinge clothea's to say xxv*li* a pece for x yeres a boute painge nothinge for the loane and the odd 4*li* the maior or head officer to have it for hys paynes in resevinge and painge the same.

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[1] Incumbent of St. Chad's 1550-1553.

This yeare the Lord Thomas brother to the Ducke of Suffolke was tacken at Osestrie in Wales by master Rychard Myttoon of Shrosbery beinge then baylyff wch fell owt at leangthe to the sayde Mr. Myttoons greate hynderance.

This yeare dysceassyd one Sr Thomas Bromeleye of Shrewsbery beinge Chyffe Judge of England and Alderman of the sayde towne of Shrewsbery and free wth the company of the Drapers there.

The S'gants names were John Sprystow com'e Rob't Abenyon John Webstar who was dysplacid & Edward Harcoote suplyed.

1554-5. Nycholas Pursell & Robart Irelande[1] Baylyffs.

This yeare dep'tyd this p'sent lyffe master Thomas Ireland of Salop merc' and was burieed the x*th* day of November 1554 in these baylyffs tymes to saye of Nycholas Pursell & Robart Ireland the Elder, the wch Thomas Ireland was a right p'testant and a dylygent favowrar of the woorde of God and was also a verteous and charitable man unto the poore zelows & carefull in p'vydinge for them and yf he had lyved he wold have brought hys mynde to pas in ye same for his perpetuall memorie wch Purcell should have ben placyd at the begyninge of thesse baylyff's tymes.

The iij S'gants for the towne of Salop were Roger Woorrall com'es. Francis Tenche & Roger Wryght.

1555-56. Umfrey Onslowe & Thomas Byrygtoon Bayl^s^.

This yeare aperyd a comet or blasinge starr ov' England and many children monstrous borne in dyv' placs of the realme.

The thre sargya'ts were Robart Smythe com'e s. Lewys Smythe & John Bradeley.

1556-7. Thomas Mongombry & John Dawys Baylyffs.

This yeare was a fraye in the East foriate in Shrosbery betwyxt Sr Henry Stafford and Edwa'd Harberd the wch had fallen to greate bloodshed yf the baylyffs the' beinge wth the woorshipfull of the saide towne had not wyselye pacyfieed the same.

This yeare wheate was woorthe in Shrosbery viij*s*. vj*d*. the bushell and Rye at vj*s*. the bushell.

This yeare also and in these baylyffs tymes the coondyt in Shrosberie fynyshed and rann in iij placs in the sayd towne but it dyd not contynewe many yeares because the pypes were of wood & yll wrought.

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[1] O. & B. call him "senior."

This yeare Hobby's howse the backer of Pryde hyll in Shrosbery to saye the stone howsse where hys faggots dyd lye was by myschance sett on fyer the wch was a verey greate and fearfull fier wch dyd mownt throughe the toppe of the same stone howse beinge oppe' of a huge heagthe and yf the sayde stone howse had not keapt the force therof in it had burnt the hole streete but God be blessyd y^{t} it wennt no further but consumyd wthin it selffe.

This yeare at the later ennde of harvyst wheat wch before harvyst was at viij*s.* vj*d.* came to viij*d.* the bushell and so of all grayne a lycke man' so that in this yeare was bothe darthe & plenty in Shrosbery.

This yere were chose' sergia'ts Thomas Tenche comme' sergia't John Bowdlar & Rychard Webstar.

1557-8. Rychard Myttoon & Johon Mackwoorth Baylyffs.

This yeare Thomas Goghe s'vant wth Wm Hughes butcher was drownyd in Sevarne and foonde agayne and buried in the sayd baylyffs tymes.

This yeare were s'giats Vryan Fysher com'e s. Ric' Langley & Wyllyam Scott.

1558-9. (I. Elizabeth). John Yevans & John Hallywell Baylyffs.

The xxij daye of November hyr grace [Queen Elizabeth] was p'claymyd in this towne of Salop & in the sayd baylyffs tyme.

This yeare and the last of November Rychard Nettells of Salop tann' was drownyd and founde agayne & buried the same daye beinge an excellennt swymmer yet for all that hys howre was coom.

This yeare and the viij*th* of May was a subsedy grauntyd. Parlyme't reioornyd and the serveys apoyntyd in Englyshe agayne throughowt all Engla'd the olde byshopps depryvyd and other placyd, howses of relygyon suppressyd sutche as were & Imags burnyd.

This yeare and in these baylyffes tymes to saye of John Yevans & John Hallywell ther was ordaynyd by the onely mocion of the sayd baylyffe Hallywell whoe dwellyd in St. Jyllyans parryshe in the sayd towne that the bell in the sayde churche shulld ringe ev'y morninge at iiij of the clocke and toll the sayd bell at vj of the clocke in the morni'ge, xij at noone, and vj of the clocke at nyght and so to contynewe for ev' the wch ys a goodly knowledg for the inhabytants & strang' the wch ys callyd to this daye Hallywells knyll.

The s'gyants names were John Tomkis come' Roger bruar & Rychard Hygyons.

1559-60. Robart Allen & Rychard Owen[1] alias Barbur Bayl'.

This yeare on mychelmas yeaven the basse money fell to saye the best pece of vj*d.* to iiij*d.* ob. the secoond pece of vj*d.* to ij*d.* ob. and the thyrd and woorst sort of vj*d.* to no value the pece of iij*d.* to j*d.* ob. the pece of ij*d.* to a penye and shortly after callyd in and good sylv' coynyd and delyveryd for the same agayne.

The s'gyants were Davyd Heylyn com'e s Robt. Webstar & Phellyp Howle.

1560-1. Thomas Moongom'ry & Wyllyam Tenche Bayll's.

The s'giats were Thomas Teanche come' s Ric.' ap Ric.' & Ric.' Wright. John Lecese suplied Ric.' ap Ric.'

1561-2. Rychard Myttoon & Rychard Dawys Bayll's.

The sergiants were John Geno come' s Thomas ap Hughe & Lewys Smythe.

This yeare the plage[2] was disparcyd in dyv's placys in Engelaund.

1562-3. Roger Luter & Rychard Owen[3] merc' Baylyffs.

This yeare were chose' sergiants for the towne of Salop Georg' Purc' come' s Robart Bromeley & John Abenyon.

1563-4. Umfrey Onslowe & George Hyggyns Baylyffs.

This year was there a greate tempest wth lyghteni'g & thoonder contynewinge the space of xj dayes the lycke was nev' seene in England before the forse wherof dyd mutche harme in manye placs & the force therof was sutche that wthin a myle of Shrosbery to say by a villadge callyd Barwycke were ij ocks shacke' and forcyd upp by the rootes and so dryve' uppright slydinge uppo' theyre rootes a greate space from theire growinge places and downe a slope fyll into the myds of the water therby callyd Sevarn and so standinge as it were growinge in the mydds of the same to the great woonder of the beholders and there standinge a longe tyme untill at lengthe there was shift made to have the' awaye for trobblinge the passedge of flots comy'ge yerely downe for the commodity of the towne of Salop.

This yeare the foresayd baylyffs of this towne of Shrewsberie mad a good act & decreid order y^{t} no fory'nar should coom in to be made free of the sayd towne unde' the soom of v*li* pryncypall besyds other ordynarie chargs therunto appertay'inge wch before that tyme myght have com in for L*s.*

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[1] O. & B. call him "junior."

[2] We have no note of its occurring in Shrewsbury at this time.

[3] O. & B. call him "junior."

This yere the iij s'gia'ts names were Rog' Wms. come' s Ryc' Leat'u & Robt Rychardsoon.

1564-5. Rychard Owen[1] Sherma' & George Leyghe Bayl's.

This yeare and in these baylyffs times in the moonthe of October was seene in the Elyment many fierie impressyons as it were proceedinge owt of the Elyment and all the northe parts seemyd to be coveryd wth flames of fyer stainge the most parte of an houre and so descendinge westward and all the same nyght beinge next after the change of the moone seemyd as lyght as it had been daye beinge the vij*th* daye of October at nyght.

This yeare in the towne of Shrewsberie they began to brynge the condit water towards the towne in pypes of leade (wch before was brought in pipes of wood & by that meanes faylyd) to the mayntenance wherof one Mr. Poynter of Loondon marchant gave the soom of xx*li* who was borne in the sayd towne.

This yeare & friday next after mychelmas daye the xxv parsons that wennt uppon the baylyffs for the yeare followinge for this towne of Shrewsberie were in the Elect'on howse w^th^out meate or dryncke xxvj howres at the least before they coulde agree.

This yeare were the iij serga'ts Wyllyam Pettoon come' s Roger Illedge & Robart Smythe.

1565-6. Rychard Pursell & Wyllyam Peerse Baylyffs.

This yeare and in the forsayd baylyffs tymes to say of Purcell and Peerse dyed Mr. Rychard Corbett soon to Sr Robart Corbet of Murtu' Corbet knight, he was karver to Prynce Edwarde, standart berar to hys bannd at Bullen and one of the queenes M^ts^ counsell in the marches of Wales and lyethe buried in ye weast syde of Shabories churche v miles from Shrewsberye and dyeed w^th^out yssue.

This yere were the iij sergya'ts to say Thomas Tenche come' s Thomas Howells & Rychard Mannynge.

1566-7. Robart Allen & Robart Ireland yong'.

This yeare & the xxij of Aprell was burnt in a towne of Wales callyd Oswestry beinge lardge xij myles from Shrosbery above ij*c* howses in the space of ij howres in the afternoone of the same daye by myschaunce of one of the neighbours bruinge in the nyght.

This yeare master John Dawes of Shrosbery and alderma' of the sayd towne began and buyldyd ij fayre bayes in the corne m'ket there for the saffe placinge of corne from wether so that the own' therof may stannd safe and drye the w^ch^

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[1] O. & B. call him "senior."

buyldinge was of hys owne costs and chargs wch place servethe for the inhabytants as also strangers to walk in and the lofte above for soondry profitable purposes.

This yeare wer' sargints Rychard Reynolds comen s Wyllyam Tydder & Roger Langeley.

1567-8. Rychard Myttoon & Thomas Sturry Bayll's.

This yeare in the moonthe of August mast^r^ Robart Allen dyscessyd and was burieed the xxviij of the same who was baylyffe of thys towne of Shrewsbery the last yere who laft ij*cli* to be dystributyd yearly to xx yonge begynn's to clothe w^th^all to say to ev'y sutche x*li* a pece for iij yeares a bout pay'nge for the same but iiij*d.* in the pounde to be delyverid to the poore and so to contynewe for ev' in the delyveringe therof as well for the pryncypall to sutche parties as also the Encresse therof to the poore the baylyffs of the sayd towne of Shrewsbery are chargyd wth the delyv'y and payment of the same from yere to yeare accordinge to ye formar graunt.

This yere were sargyants Thomas ap Hugh come' s John Nycholls & Rondell Rolls.

1568-9. George Leyghe & Richard Owen[1] Sherma' Baylyffs.

This yeare about the xij*th* of Marche in the after noone at the commy'ge in of the iudgs of the assyse into Shrosbery there fell in the sayd towne an yearthquaeke wch helde an howre.

This yeare was a monsterous goslinge hetchyd in Shrousberie at the howse of one Edward Mynttoon in Frankvile there havinge iiij feete to say ij feete lycke a swan & ij feete lycke a goose one hole bodie havinge ij Ishues and headyd lycke a swan.

This yeare at Whytsoontyde was a notable stage playe playeed in Shrosberie in a place there callyd the quarrell wch lastid all the hollydayes unto the wch cam greate number of people of noblemen and others the wch was praysed greatlye and the chyff aucter therof was one master Astoon beinge the head scoolemaster of the freescoole there a godly and lernyd man who tooke marvelous greate paynes therin.

This yeare were sergiants to say Rondle Stevens come' s John Scott & Raffe Beddowe.

1569-70. George Hyggyns & George Prowde Baylyffs.

This yeare and uppon Easter daye at eveninge serveis in the abbey of Shrewsbery were ij men kyllyd wth the clapper of the thridd bell fallinge owt of the steeple and chancyd to fall upon those ij meen beinge wth other ringinge at the greate

[1] O. & B. call him "senior."

bell and were strycken starcke dead and never spacke woorde theire names were Haywarde & Bradeleye.

This yere one master Onslowe to say master Umffrey Onslowe beinge alderma' of Shrousberie buylded in the cornemarket of the sayde towne iij bayes adioynynge to master Dawes buyldinge ffor safe placinge of corn and the owners from wetheringe.

This yeare and the xviij*th* of September 1570 one Syr Rychard Newport[1] a valiant knyght of Shropshire and of a pryncely personage dysceassyd for whose deathe there was mutche mone made in Shrosberye.

This yeare were sergiants Rychard Marshall come' s Roger Illedge & John Lewys.

1570-1. Umfreye Onslowe & Hughe Beanes Baylyffs.

This yere the v*th* of October, 1570 there fell sutch a terryble tempest of wynde and rayne bothe uppon sea and lande wch dyd mutche hurt in overflowinge medows pastures and howses to the utter undoinge of the queenes m^ts^ subiects of this realme.

This yeare and about the begynninge of thesse baylyffs tymes a common fyld belonginge to the towne of Shrewsbery callyd behynde the walls[2] was putte ferme for x yeares unto iij of the burgyses of the same towne namyd Wyllyam Jones Wm Herynge and Rychard Gardner drapers and they for the wch bargayne are chargyd to brynge the water in leaden pypes nowe in hande for the condyt at a sertayne daye to run in soondry placs in the sayd towne.

This yeare master Rychard Onslowe[3] master of the queenes m^ts^ wardes commynge in good helthe to Shrewsberie (where

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[1] Sir Richard Newport of High Ercall Sheriff 1552 was eldest son of Thomas Newport Sheriff in 1550, and a member of the Council of the Marches. He married the only child of Sir Thomas Bromley, Chief Justice, and acquired large estates about Wroxeter. His fine altar tomb is on the south side of the chancel of Wroxeter church. Arms *arg.* a chevron *gu.* between 3 leopards' faces *sa.* Blakeway's *Sheriffs.*

[2] This is now called the Quarry.

[3] Richard Onslow, Master of the Wards, Recorder of London, & Speaker of the House of Commons, was eldest son of Roger Onslow Salop, mercer (2nd son of Edwd. O. of Onslow Esq.), & nephew of Humphrey Onslow of Onslow, Sheriff in 1566. Arms *arg.* a fesse *gu.* between six Cornish choughs *proper.* Blakeway's *Sheriffs.* See the description of his altar tomb formerly in St. Chad's Church, and now in the Abbey Church, in O. & B., 2, 167.

he was borne and brought up) to vyset hys uncle Umffrey Onslowe then beinge baylyff of thys towne of Shrosbery as aforesaid endyd hys lyfe and lyethe buryed in St. Chadd's Churche being buried the vij*th* daye of Aprell.

This yeare Sr Harry Sydney Lord Presydent of Wales and Deputie of Ireland cam from Irelandd throughe Shrewsbery towards the parlyment upon whom the Shermen made an exclamac'on to have hys help against the Drapers cons'eninge an act for byenge of Walshe clothe to be at lybertie but at this tyme it cam to non effect.

This yeare one Mr. Ast'n scoolemaster of the freescoole[1] in Salop beinge a good and zealows man towards the preferme't of learni'g in the same scoole made suyte of his owne charge besyds greate labor to the queenes m^tie^ and so obtayned to the maynetenance of the same scoole xx*li* a yeare more wch made it xl*li* a yere to sufficient fyndinge for diligent dysciplyne of a master and ij ushyars.

This yere we^r^ sergia'ts Thomas Elcks come' s Gylbert Woodd & Adam Clarcke.

1571-2. Wm Peerse & Thomas Burnell Baylyffs.

This yeare master Umffrey Oneslowe buldyd in the marcket place of Shrosberie callyd the cornemarket one other baye adioyni'ge to his iij bayes buylded before for the saffe placinge of corne also he pavyd and repayryd all the paveme't of Franckwell Streete, and buyldyd the upperp't of o^r^ Lady Chappell in St. Chadds churche, he pavyd also the greate causey between the Lords place and the highe crosse in the sayd towne of Salop.

This yeare was a soodden p'lyment callyd the viij*th* of May where there were iij barrons made, in the wch p'lyment was made an act for the towne of Shrewsbery cons'inge the buyi'ge of Walshe clothe wch was put at lybertie for all men to bye but not to dresse theyre owne clothe.

This yeare and the iij of August there was a sycleman' wch had by chance two of hys horses drownyd in the horse fayre in Franckwell in Shrewsbery lade' wth syckells and sythes as he was passi'g towards Oswestry fayre but throughe the helppe of good people he had hys goods savyd and releavyd wth a pece of money for lacke wherof he had ben undoon.

This yeare and in the moonth of August cam throughe Shreusberie iiij Earles of highe almayne from Irelaund havinge lycence to se the countreys.

This yeare and the iij of October beinge the Elect^n^ day at nyght was greate contrav'sy betwyxt the woorshipps of thys

[1] See Baker's Hist. of St. John's College Cambridge. 1, 406.

towne cons'inge the dysplacynge of Mr. Rychard Dawes and Mr. Robart Ireland alderme' in swering and placing others the wch was throughe cownsell pacyfyed or ells it had growyn to a further inconvenyence.

This yeare were sergyaunts of the towne of Salop Rondle Rolls come' s'giat Roger Wyllyams and Nycholas Onslowe.

1572-3. Thomas Sherar & Wyllyam Aloe[1] Baylyffs.

This yeare and the xxiiij of November Edward Earle of Darby Lord Staneley and Strange of Knoockinge Lord and gov'ner of the Iles of Man Knight of the noble order of the Garter and one of the queenes m^{ti} counsell deseassyd at his callyd Latham in Lancashire he servyd faythefully ij Kyngs and ij Queenes he offryd the queenes m^{ts} at the rebellyon in the northe of hys own p'per chargs x thousand men, hys famus howse keapinge, he kept xj score in checker rolle the space of xlij yeares he fedd lx agyd p'soons twyse a daye besyde all comm's thryse a weecke apoynted for hys dealinge dayes and ev'y good fryday thys xxxv yeares past two thousand seven c creatures wth meate dryncke money and money woorthe, there was nev' gentilman or other that waytyd uppon hys serveys but had alowance from hym bothe for horse and man hys yearly porc'on for expences of hys howse was iji thousand pounds hys cooninge in settinge boanes dysioynctyd or broken hys chyourgerie and desire to helpe the poore, hys delyvery of his george and seale to the Lorde Strange wth exhortac'on that he might kepe it so unspottyd in faythe to hys prynce as he had doon and hys ioye that he dyeed in the queenes favoure, hys joyfull partinge thys worlde, hys famylyar tackinge of leave of all his servaunts by shakinge of haunds and his remebrace to the last howre ys a ioyfull heeringe to all x'rian hartes and a famows example to all nobilitie.

This yeare and the x*th* of Marche one Richard Gardner of the towne of Shrewsberye dyer and free of the company of the Drape's attemptyd and put in p'ffe to fynnde owt coles about the towne in soondry placys and in one place in especiall callyd Emsterie heye hard by the sayd towne he foound by hys great dyligence and travell greate store of seecole the wch ys lycke to coom to sutche commoditie bothe for riche and poore that he ys not only woorthy of commendac'on and mayntenance but also to be had in remembrance for ev'.

This yeare there was brought to the boothehall in Shrewsbery the head of a monsterows callffe wch had iiij eyes twoo mowthes iiij eares and but one fyrme & playne head wch was calvyd wthin iiij myles of the sayd towne.

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[1] O. & B. call him Lowe.

This yeare the wynter and springe tyme was verey longe cold hard and drye so that it was verey farr in the moonthe of Maye before any leffe or blossom apeeryd uppon any tree by wch occasyon mutche cattell perysheed for waunt of foode and sucker wch caused rye to be at 3*s.* 4*d.* the bushell and wheate at iiijs. wch untemperatnes of weather causyd a late harvyst in most placs in England.

This yeare and the xx*th* daye of Maye was founde a wooman childe drownyd in a pytt by Shelton a myle from Shrewsbery and is not as yeat knowen what wyckyd stroompet dyd it.

This yere were sargia'ts in Salop John Maddoxe comme' s. John Smythe, Ric' Mannynge.

This yeare Mr. Umffrey Onslowe[1] alderman of the towne of Shrewsberie dyscessyd the ij daye of June beinge of the age of iiij^x &^ xvj yeares besydes hys good deads before rehersyd there never cam any man of honor or woorshyp into the towne but hee was redy to reseve and intertayne him and keape company wth them to the greate fame & prayse of the sayde towne in whose place was chosen Alderman Mr Edward Onslowe hys soon and heyre.

This yeare and in the moonthe of August the condit water of Shrewsbery was brought in leadin pypes by the dylygennt oversyght of Rychard Gardner of the same towne drap^r^ unto the upper ennde of Shoomacker rowe[2] & the greate sesterne of ledd was made and fynyshyd and also the stone woorcke about the same.

This yeare at the commyng into Shrewsbery of Sr Harry Sydney Lord Presydent of Wales from London there was shott of in a ryaltie 18 chamber peecs at a voyde place und' the wyld copp adjioyninge unto Mast^r^ Sherars house[3] and also a lyttill from the same at the foote of the wyld copp was an excellentt orac'on made unto hym by one of the scollars of the free scoole there.

This yeare there was a greate cessment levyed by the baylyffs uppon all the burgessys of the towne of Shrewsberie but in the ende toocke non effect.

This yeare and in the ennde of September there whas sutche an extreme tempest of wynde and weather that it dyd mutche hurt in many placs.

1573-4. Rychard Owen Sherma' & Rychard Apowell m'cer Ballyffs.

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[1] Sheriff of Shropshire, 1566.

[2] Single Butcher Row, or the east side of Pride Hill.

[3] There is an engraving of this fine old mansion in O. & B., 1, 356.

The wether was gyvyn to sutche rayne thys moonthe [October] that many husbandmen were forsyd to keepe theire rye grownde for barleye.

This yeare and about the later ennd of thys moonthe [October] there cam to Shrewsbery the Lord Presydent wth the Byshopp of Coventrie and Lytchefeld as speciall commyshion' for to see an order & reformac'on in the churches acordinge to the queenes m^{tis} iniunctions.

This yeare and about thys tyme the Excersyse began in St Chadds churche in Salop.

This yeare the mynysters in the churches of Shrewsberye against X'ras dyd all were theire crosse capps and whyte syrplesys wch longe tyme befor dyd leave them of contrarie to the queenes iniunct'ons.

This yeare from the begyninge of November untill wthin xiiij dayes of Candelmas the seasoon was so pleasannt and fayre wthout frost or any snowe to specke of that there apeeryd leaves upon hathorn and ploomtresse before X'ras and the koocow was hard songe & also seene x days before X'ras, also there was at neweyeares daye serten tenannts in Shropshyre presentyd theyre Landlords wth greene geese.

This yeare one Yevan ap Davyd alias Yeven wever of Franckvill in Shrewsberie beinge a man above lx yeares in the X'ras hollydayes goinge up a tree uppon his backesyde wth a ladder to plucke downe a pyeametts neast fell downe and broosyd hys braynes that he nev' spacke but dyed wthin an howre after the fall.

This yeare also in the moonthe of January a servingeman of Master Styrries of Rossall by Shrewsberie repayringe to a howse at St John's hyll in Shrosberie desperately thrust hys owne dager throughe hys throte and by chance myssyd hys wosand pype by helpe wherof it is curable and good hope to lyve thys mans name ys Yevan.

This yeare Mr Rychard Hussey of the Battellfilld by Shrewsberie cam throughe Shrewsbery in Marche A^{o} 1573 in a wagon from Coventrie (where he dyed) wth hys armes dysplayed in brave order and so passyd wth a greate coompany to hys place aforesaid and there (hys buriall solempnysed) lyeth burieed.

This yeare the condytte in Shrosberie rann all to say at v severall places in the said monthe of August fyrst at the uppeer ennde of the Shoomacker rowe at mardole hedd, at the aple market,[1] at the sextry wall[2] and at the wyld copp.

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[1] Green Market, in Market Square.

[2] Near the Chapel in High Street.

This yeare and the xiiij*th* of Septe'ber about mydnight there aperyd in the Elyme' fyery impressyons in the northe towards the southe and so contynuyd untyll daye light and the next nyght followinge the heve' from all pts dyd seeme to burne marvelous ragynge from the horizon rownd about as yf it had ben in a clere furnace.

This ye' were sergiants George Churche com'e s. John Owen & Hughe Benyon.

1574-5 George Hyggyns & George Leyghe Baylyffs.

This yeare the counsell of the Marches cam to Shrewsbery and there they taried the full ennd of one tearme to say mychalmas tearme and were myndyd to tary the wynt' but were commawndyd by the queenes m^{ti} to remove to Bewdeleye.

This yeare uppon all Sole daye being so commonly callyd and the secoonde daye of November the wife of one Wm Coller of Chylt'n taylor by Atcham ij myles from Shrewsbery hangyd hyr sellf in hyr husbands bowstringe being newe maried and maryed against hyr parents myndes, and one daye bechaunce meatinge of hyr father she kneelyd downe to hym but he turnyd from hyr and could not abyd hyr whom before he derely lovyd the wch unkyndness of hyr father people iudge was the occasyon of hyr deathe.

This yeare and the xiij*th* day of November from one of the clocke in the morni'ge untyll the rysynge of the soon apeeryd in the Elyme't all alongst to saye from the northe weast unto the sowthe west bright beames wth fyery inflamac'ons and the next morni'ge followinge in a man' as frightfully.

This yeare and the xxvj*th* daye of November A^{o} p'd beinge upon a fryday there fell an extreeme tempest from mornynge until evenyng wth snowe that many perysheed in jurneyenge in dyvers places in England and many escapyd narrowly as by Shrousberie one poore kariar commynge from Oswestrie wth welshe clothe of Mr. Rychard Owen draper lay by the waye almost starven had not the said Mr. Owen holpe' hym by God's p'vysyon whose good and mercyfull deede ys to be had in memorye to the insample of all others the syrcumstance thereof ys to be knowen in Shrewsberye.

This yeare and the last daye of Januarye A^{o} 1574 was one Wm. Sheyntoon of Salop husbandman hangyd in Kingslaund upon a newe gallows there put upp whoe was a privey theeffe havinge sutche honest aparance owtward that he was not suspectyd and thought least of in sutche matt^{rs} and so the longer or ev' he was espyeed who confessyd at hys deathe that he had usyd and practysyd theeverye above xx yeares who dyd mutche hurt about Shrosbery & whe' he dyed he was above lx yeares olde.

This yeare and the xxvj*th* daye of Frebruarye betwene 4 & vj of the clocke in the afternoone great yearthquacks happened, the boocks in men's studies fell downe in the towne of Shrewsbery for the space of halffe an howre that the severall castells howses and gats dyd so shacke as thoughe they had be' rockyd wth sutche a dead thunderinge noyse wthin the yearthe as it were wch causyd the pygyons crowes and foules to forsake theire nests and placs of theire aboade.

This yeare and the xiij*th* daye of m'che from ix of the clocke at nyght unto xij of the clocke apered in the Elyme't fiery inflamac'ons as it were feightinge one wth another being throughe the meanes thereof as light as it had ben at the brecke of daye.

This yeare the drawe bridge at the Walshe gate[1] was newe made wth wood.

This yeare and in this moonthe [March] my Lorde Presydents chamber in Ludlowe castell was by myschance sett on fyre to the losse of one hundred marcks & above befor it was knowe' to be holpe', and also in the same towne of Ludlowe in on Hoptoon's howse where there were serte' gentilme' banckettinge in a chamber over hys hall being there at theyre victales the chamber floore fell downe and the Table wth the victalls fell throughe the wyndowe in the ope' streete and the p'ties hardly escapyd the danger.

This yeare the queenes m^{tie} went a p'gresse towarde Shrosbery but because of deathe wthin a iiij myles of the same she cam no further the' Lychefilld and from thence went to Worcester the wch cyty shee lyckyd well.

This yeare and the xxx*ti* of July in the after noone was a greate tempest of lyghteninge and thoonder wherewth bothe men and weemen wth beasts were strycken dead, also at that tyme fell greate aboondance of hayle where of the stones in many placs were foounde to be vj or vij ynches about.

This yeare and the vij*th* daye of Septe'ber A° 1575, was Wm. Phellyps howse in Franckvill beinge one of the subu'bes of the towne of Salop burnt to say hys stablehouse wth haye and fagotts burnt cleane to the grownde and a peace of hys dwellingehouse and yf greate helpe had not byn it had burnt all the whole rowe adioyni'ge wch began at ix of the clocke in the nyght and as it is thought it cam throughe the heye wch was howsyd weete and not well seasonyd.

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[1] Of the old Welsh Bridge there is a view looking from Frankwell in Phillips, 148, and several views looking from Mardol side by Paul Sandby. There are also views in O. & B., 1, 224. The drawbridge was on the Frankwell side.

This yeare at one Allens howse sherman in Knoockyn streete in Shreusberie there was a pygge faryeed wch had viij feete v eares wch was presentid to the aforesayde baylyffs and seene of manye.

This yere were serg^ts^ Davyd ap Ric' com'e s. John Nycolls Roger Illedge.

1575-6. Davyd Lloyd drap^r^ & John Ockell mercer Baylyffs.

This yeare and about the vij*th* daye of October 1575 was seene in the night in the Elyme't towards the northe sutche fyerye inflamacons in man' as they were the last yeare before rehersid.

This yeare in the moonthe of November were soondry howses in Shreusbery and by Shreusbery burnt and other lycke to have been burnt and further greate harme to have coom of the same if greate and speedy help had not ben to saye at Edward Clarks howse backer in Mardwall at the high crosse at Bates howse the backer at Woodcot by Salop the hole dwellinge howse of Mr. John Hosyar cleane burnt besyde other places lycke to have doon harm but dilligently holpe' and foreseene in tyme as in the upper ennde of Francvill and at Mystres Goombris in the Barckars streete.

This yere and in the said moonthe there was a hart cam by chance to Rowsell in Shrosbery and there hunted & brought alyve to the baylyves the lyck was never seene in Shrewsbery.

This yeare also in the begyninge of Dece'ber to saye the v*th* daye beinge moon daye the Drapers of Shrewsbery had lycke to have ben robbyd yf they had not been pryvely warnyd thereof uppon wch warni'ge the baylyffs and a greate number wennt strongly uppon their usuall trade towards Oswestrie at whose cominge the theeves havinge intelligence shrooncke awaye and so escapyd and are not as yeat known. They purposyd to have robbyd the' in the Dale betwyxt Shelt'n and Shrewsberie & over night they harborid themselves and theire horses in Mr. Sherars barne on thoderside of the water and in the morninge baytyd theire horses in the thycket ov' against Sheltons hyll havinge boates to passe and repasse to theire pretendyd purpose but myssyd of the same by the helpe of God and so dep'tid w^th^out theire praye as aforesayde.

This yeare uppo' St Mathews daye beinge the xxiiij*th* daye of Februarie was a grate fludd[1] in Shrewsberie wch dyd greate

[1] Phillips 19, enumerates many floods in Shrewsbury, viz., 1338, great flood, continual rain from beginning of October to December. 1348, violent rain Midsummer to Christmas, not one day or night

harme especially in Franckwell beinge one of the suburbs the heyght of the same water ys to be seen in dyv's placs in Francwell uppon the wch water dyv's people were karieed in one Byshopps bardge from the toll shopp at the northe ende of the Walshe brydge throughe Franckvill as hyghe as the good man Tylstones house the wch wat' dyd ryse in the lowe countreys as Brydgnorthe, Tewkesbery & Bewdley in the nyght and dyd greate hurtt commynge soodenly uppon them.

This yeare the plage[1] was in Shrosbery in the begyninge of the wch there died one Mr. Hawckswoorthe[2] curat of St Chadds and one Roger Barns curate of St Alkemoonds in Salop.

This yeare and the xx daye of September was a playne crosse seen in the Elyme't right over the north syde of Shreusberie towne contynewinge a full halfe howre and the' vanyshyd awaye.

This yeare St. Matthews Daye beinge the xxij daye of Septe'ber wch was woont to be a fayre kept in Shrosbery towne and because of the plage in the towne the sayde fayre was kept in a place sometymes a commoons callyd Kyngsland nere Shrewsbery the wch was but a smale fayre and lytyll doyinge in respect to talke of.

This yeare also the countie court keapt at a villadge wthin a myle of Shreusbery callyd Meele bracy by reason of the sayde plage.

The sargya'ts names were Robart Whytekers com'e s. Ellys Keffyn & Robart Ball.

1576-7 John Dawys senyo^{r}. & Rychard Owen drap^{r}. Bayl^{s}.

This yeare and about the ennde of Nove'ber a pedlar of Arscott commonly callyd Tom Pedlar was murtheryd by Walkot beinge iiij myles from Shreusberye by one Thomas Upt'n being Uptoons soon of Walkot who dyd bury hym wythe hys packe in a lytyll cote of hys fathers by the waters syde not know'e untyll mydlent followinge and then was he there founde and dyggyd up wth hys packe by a greate chaunce by master Gerram Corbett and the' the sayd Upt'n aprehendyd and examynyd was senntt to Bridgnorth and there hangyd accordingly.

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dry together. 1595, great flood, threw down gate on English Bridge. 1673, great flood, a small whale came up. 1729, great flood. 1740, greatest flood known, flowed into the Abbey Church. 1748, flood, a dolphin came up. 1770, great flood, near a foot higher than that of 1740. 1772, Nov., great flood.

[1] See O. & B., 1, 368.

[2] Christopher Hawkshurst appointed on accession of Elizabeth. Barns was an assistant Curate to Sir George Crane incumbent, 1550—1591.

This yeare and the xvj*th* day of Januarie about viij of the clocke at nyght one John Butlar of the hyther Lythe by Shrewsbery wylfully hangyd hym selfe beinge a man well to lyve.

This yeare and in the sayd moonthe in a village called Lackon besyds the towne of Wem vij myles from Shreusberie a woman was delyv'id of a monsterous childe being in this man' and forme to say wth ij heades and iiij feete iiij armes as it were two bodies joynyd togeather at the lower p'te and there the iiij leggs cam all furthe mynglyd one over another hedd and body upwards and hed and body downewards the one of the bodies aperyd to be a man childe and the other a woman childe the body of the boye dyed the day after they were borne and the gyrle or wenche dyed the daye after the deathe of the boye.

This yeare also about this tyme wthin a mile of Dret'n a woman was d'd of iiij childre' at one burthen and were all x'reid and all iiij d'd to theire norces and do lyve.

There was this yeare in the moonthe of February at the Ile of Rossall by Shreusberie a man servant of one Mr. Ric' Sandfords was by myschance slayne in cuttinge downe a boughe of a tree a lytell of from hys masters howse wch boughe bracke before it was full cutt and stroocke hym amayne downe upon a sharpe cagge at the bottoom of the saide tree and so broosyd hym in pec's that hys bowells ran about hys bodye in rufull man' to beholde.

This yeare and the xxvj*th* of Marche Wm. Lambe soomtyme gentillma' of the chappell to Kynge Henry the eyght and now Cytyzen and clothewoorcker of London gave to the townes of Ludlow and Brygenorthe to eyche of them *cli* in redie moneye to sett poore men on woorke.

This yeare and the iij*th* daye of Aprell one Owen ap Morrys plasterare woorckinge upon the freescoole howse in Shrousbery fell of ye top of hys ladder beinge soomwhat hyghe by the myschaunce of a rotten staffe wch he stood uppon at the upper ennde of the same wch bracke und^{r} hym and so he fell downe upon the stony paveme't in the stretesyde and so bracke hys necke and presently dyeed who was a trew honest laboringe poore man and of good report.

This yeare the hole moonthe of June was so unreasonable wether of wynde and greate rayne that the people were in greate fright of deere bredcorn for that rye was sold at vs. and vs. iiij*d.* the bushell and all other corne aft^{r} the rate dere.

This yeare and in thys moonthe of August one Edward Clarcke of Salop butcher was dysgrated of hys burgyshypp

because he mysusyd hym sellffe against the baylyffe Mr. Dawes not only in woords but also gave the sayde baylyffe a blowe upon the face wth hys hande verey rebellyously the wch Clarke was putt in prysoon upon further punysheme't.

This yere the foresaid Baylyffs master Dawes and Mr. Owen repayryd and bewtyfieed soondrie placs of this towne of Salop as the front of the Walshe gate and uppon the same bridge made serte' shopps wth a prety ten'nt in the place of the cadge and pryvey wch cadge beinge old and fallen to decaye they causyd to be remoovyd and newe buylt and placyd under the frount of the saide Walshe gate over creeples lode.

Also they conveyd the coondit heades at the upper ennde of Mardoll and at the aple marcket in the Heyestreete wch before were open and nowe in bewtyfull man' to beholld also fortyfyeed the corn' of Rowsell towne wall wch before lay open in ruyinows man' and verey dangerous for passingers especially for childre' and nowe made plesaunt for all people wth soondry other good deads as in carefull foreseinge the repayringe of the foondac'ons of the brydgs as also repayringe and bewtyfie'ng the sayde towne as are not unknowe' to the inhabitaunts to the good ensample of thosse wch shall after followe.

The sergya'ts at the mace for this yere were Thomas Tenche com'e s'g Wm. Barnes & Edward Lloyd for this towne of Shrosberye.

1577-8 Thomas Sherar & Thomas Chorlt'n Baylyffs.

This yere were chose' sergiants at the mace George Benyon comme' sergyant Jhon Smythe & John Lewyes.

This yere thesse baylyffs p'ceedyd in pavinge of sutche ruynows placs of the towne as were needfull to the grete prayse for the towne and plesaunt passadge for all people.

This yeare and the xj*th* day of Nove'br after the apeeringe of the newe moone almost in the sellff same place westwarde apeered a com'et comenly callyd a blassinge starre wth a mervelous longe spyre or beame poyntinge towards the southe east wch comett wold remove from hys apeeringe place towards the northe west and thus it contynewyd vysible ev'y nyght for the space of viij weecks and more dymynyshynge styll hys beame beinge a moveable starr as it aperid.

This yeare aboute the vij*th* daye of January A° 1577 deptyd this p'sent lyfe the Lady Jane Corbet[1] wyffe to the right

[1] Daughter of Sir Robert Nedeham of Shavington. Sir Andrew Corbet, of Moreton Corbet, son and heir of Roger Corbet (Sheriff in 1530) was Sheriff in 1551. Arms:—*Or*, a raven *proper*.—Blakeway's *Sheriffs*.

honorable S^{r}. Andrew Corbet and marshall of the Marches of Wales.

This yere dyed mast^{r} Capper of Shreusbery alderma' to say the xij*th* daye of Januarie in whose place was chosen Mr. Thomas Sherar the foresaid baylyffe Alderman and Mr. Chorlt'n the oder baylyffe was chosen one of the counsell of the towne in baylyffe Sherar's place.

This yeare and the xxxj*th* daye of July was a woman burnyd at Bridgenorthe for poysoninge hyr husband hir name was Mawde Whytfelld and hyr husbands name was Wm. Whitefelld, they dwellyd in a vylladge aboute a myle from Wem callyd the Loo.

This yeare also and the xvj*th* day of August 1578 dep'tyd this p'sent lyffe the right honorable S^{r}. Andrew Corbet[1] of Murtoon Corbet in the countie of Salop beinge Lorde Marshall of the Marches of Wales sutche a Juell to all Shropshire and especiall to the towne of Shrewsbery that the lycke was not of many yeares before for the losse of whom there was many a sorrowful hart especially in the towne of Salop who was worthely burieed the xxij*th* daye of September ensuinge in the chappell of Murte' Corbet at whose buriall the byshopp of Coventrie & Lychefilld preachyd wthin the saide chappell & Mr. Prese curate of St. Chadds in Salop p'echyd to the countrey and all the people wthout.

This yeare and ye xxix*th* daye of August beinge frydaye master Asten that godly father departid this presennt lyffe a lytyll besyds Cambridge who before hys deathe cam to Salop and there prechid famously and dyd fynyshe and seale up Indentures to the full accomplyshme't and anuitie of cxx*li* for the sufficient fyndinge of the scoole mast^{r} there in Salop wch he of hys greate suyte before was a travelar to the queenes m^{tie} for the augme'tac'on to that anuall porshyon and so fynyshinge all things gyving the sayd 'towne of Salop a frindly farewell and wthin a foureteene dayes after dyeed.

This yeare the guyldhall[2] commonly callyd the boothe hall in Salop was enlarged and especially the nether hall next adioyning to the Escheker was newly beutyfieed both wth waynsketts and glasse wyndows and a chymney and also sylyd ov' hedde for the assembly of the alderme' and counsell of the sayd towne.

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[1] See above.

[2] See a view of the old guildhall in the title page of Blakeway's Sheriffs.

This yeare also the condyt at the upper ennde of the Shoomackers rowe in Salop was coverid wth free stone wth the queenes m^{ts} armes and also the townes armes in bewtyfull man' repayrg and amendinge other ruynous placs and usinge themselves verey woorshipfully beinge verey good husbands for the p'ffett of the comme'welthe of the sayde towne of Salop

This yeare and the last day of September being tusday Sr Harry Sydney Lord Presydent of the Marches of Wales one of the pryvy counsell and deputie of Ireland cam into Shrewsbery from the p'ts of Ireland and brought wth hym an Irishe Earle, a Lorde and the Earles soon and serten other Irishemen beinge enymys to the queenes m^{ti} the wch he toocke in a skirmyshe in Ireland to hys greate honor before whom at hys commy'ge into Salop was made by one of the free scoole an orac'on and so brought honorably to Mr. Sherars howse beinge as the' one of the baylyffs and the next day after was requested to bancket in the newe repayryd hall wch place he gave it a name and namyd it the chamber of concorde and so to be namyd for ev' and the next daye after beinge thursday departid towards London.

1578-9 Wyllyam Wele & Roger Harrys Baylyfs.

This yere were chosen sergyants at the mace Wm. Jencks com'en sergyant Wm. Petton & Roger Illedge for the towne of Salop.

This yeare & the xviij*th* daye of October untill wch daye from the myds of August last past beinge about ix weecks the weather was so hot and drye wthout anye raync to specke of that in soondrye placys of England they were fayne to water theire cattell x or xij myles of and gave money for the same and in the towne of Shrosberye at the fayre day before mychelmas last past there was a great number of men by the horse fayre there coursyd theire sale horses in the mydds of Severne uppon drye lande the water being so dryeed upp wch was never by any memory in thesse dayes seene before.

This yeare and about the begyninge of December was borne at St. Johns hyll in the sayd towne of Salop a childe of John Lloyds laborar wch had hys hart lyv' and lyghts wthout hys body upon hys right syde wthin a call the reast of hys body beinge hole and p'porcionable wch child lyvyd about ij howres.

This yeare and the xxij*th* of Marche serten shopps beinge uppon the further part of the stone bridge[1] in Salop fell downe in the water beinge in on of the same at the fall a childe of one Hughe ap Davyd butchar beinge of the age of iiij yeares fell downe into the water who only by the good p'vysyon of God

[1] See a view of "the Old Stone Bridge" in O. & B. 1, 269.

was savid who hardly escapid & cause of the falling of those howses was throughe a floate of woodd wch comy'ge a mayne downe strocke by chance uppon the weeck propps of those old shopps and so lowsyd theyr stay and fell into the water.

This daye to saye the ix*th* daye of Ap'll 1579 there was a fraye made in Franckevill beinge one of the suburbs of Salop betwene master Thomas Stury of Rossall by Salop gentill' and M^{r}. John Cole of the towne of Salop gentil' and yf speedy rescue had not coom there had be' mutche slaught^{r} not-wthstandinge dyv's of bothe syds were hurtt.

This yeare and the xxv*th* of Aprell Sr Thomas Bromley knight beinge a Shropshire man was made Lord Channcellor of England beinge a woorthy man of great eloquence & wysdom.

This yeare at the mariedge of capte' Leighte' was made at Westmester a solempe tryumphe and justes wth barriars to solempnyce the same.

There was this yere and in these baylyffs tymes a quantitie of grownde purchased for the use of ye towne of Shrewsbery of master Thomas Mackewoorthe of Betton gentilm' where the old head of the condit leadinge to Shrewsbery was and made a newe agayne wth stone and coveryd wth tymber because that the origynall wat' before was ope' althoughe banckyd aboute yeat peoples cattell frequentyd in and troublyd the same wth other inconvenyances so the sayd p'cell of grounde beinge purchasyd there were serte' spryngs dyggyd and stonyd over and so coveryd upon wth yearthe havinge from them clere passage in pypes of leadd to the sayde headd neere by and soe passethe to Shrewsbery towne verey cleare & holsom wthout any hynderance or infect'on to ensue wch woorcke and ov'sight bothe of the saide springs and headd one Rychard Gardn' of Salop draper dyd tacke greate paynes whose pollytycke devyses zealous hart and dylygent travells for the comodyty and helthe of the hole towne & posteritie ys woorthy of fame.

This yeare were men prest to goe into Ireland owt of thys towne of Shrosbery and Shropshyre.

This yeare and the x*th* daye of August the great assisse was keapt in Shrosbery wch was not keapt there of many yeares before and one of the sayd Judgs sate the seconde daye under the newe byldings in the market place uppon a scaffold made at the ennde of the same verey lightsoom and ope' eyre wch hee lyckyd well.

This yere cam to Shrewsbery xij pyrats wch were tacken at Bewmaryshe in Wales uppon veheme't suspicion wch laye a nyght or twoe and from thence sennt to the counsell in the M'ches to be examynyd.

1579-80 Robart Ireland junyo^{r} & John Perche marcha't Bal^{s}.

This yeare were chossen sergiants at the mace to saye Davyth Longdon comm' s'giant Roger Langeley & Hughe Benyon.

This yeare & the xxviij*th* daye of Octob^{r} at night dyd aryse sutche an extreeme tempest that did mutche harme a broade in England bothe on laund and water therby the force of wch extreeme wynnde the highe aulter wyndowe and trynytie wyndowe of St. Marys churche in Shrewsberie were borne downe bothe stone iron glasse & all and also the leads wch coveryd the saide churche was wth the vehemencye thereof rollyd upp wth the force of the same wynde untill it cam to the stone woorcke in marvelous strange man^{r} to beholld.

This yeare and the xiiij*th* daye of November cam throughe Shrewsberie the foresaid xij pyrates from the counsell of the Marches towarde Bewmarishe and there to tacke theyr triall in the admyralls court.

This yeare one master Rychard Joanes of Nottingam gentil' sett up a comm'e brewehouse hard by the abbey in Shrousbery and furnyshyng the same for that purpose began to brewe beare for the towne the xix*th* daye of Marche 1579 & inhabytethe in the same brewehouse.

This yeare and in the said moonthe of Marche one moother Gawe' of the castell foreyate in Salop was punyshyd in the cornemarket of the same towne for goinge about to bewyche and inchannt a catt of hyrs a dysease from hyr neyghbors sowe and yett notwthstanding the sowe dyeed of the sayd dysease.

This yeare there was a generall muster throughout the realme of England and the ix*th* daye of June the towne of Shrewsbury was mustered before master Leyght'n and the baylyffs of the same towne in a place behynd the walls callyd the quarrell and the next daye followinge all the ffranch's of the sama towne musterid in the same place & before the sayd p'ties in commyshion.

This yeare and the xxij daye of June cam to the towne of Shreusbery a boye under the age of viij yeares old wch was borne in the cytye of York whose name ys Danyell Mason soon to one Wm. Mason dwellinge at St. Marygate in the suburbs of the sayde cytie the wch boye had bothe hys feete cloven and hys right hand alsoe clove' lycke sheeps feete and had on fynger or any marcke in hys brest where the dydys should be bot all clene & smoothe and a comely vysage & well spocke', the pyckture of whom stoodd up in a bann' at the Abbey fayre where the sayde boye was to be seene.

This yeare and the xv*th* daye of July were sowldiars sennt out of Salop and the Shire towards Ireland to furnyshe those garrysoons there wch lackyd beinge wastyd wth skyrmishes and sycknes.

This yeare and the xxiij*th* of August were iij men laborars smootherid to deathe in a barne of one M^r^. Kynnastoons of Lytyll Nesse beinge vj myles from Shrewsberye by the reasoon of a mowe of corn sleepinge under the same in the nyght wch fell uppon them.

This yeare and the same moonthe the castell gate in Shrewsberie to saye the Burgis gate[1] there was newe repayred wth stoane woorcke verey bewtyfull to saye the froont therof towards the towne wth the queenes m^ts^ armes & the townes armes by the polletycke ov'sight of M^r^. Rychard Owen draper beinge crown' for thys yeare.

This yeare and the x*th* daye of Septe'ber aperid in the Elyme't at ix of the clocke at night westward fyery inflamac'ons and so contynewyd tyll one of the clocke that it apeered to the beholders to be soom flames in the ayre wch shewyd sutche light that men might well deecerne any thinge in their hands were it never so small and beinge as light as the brecke of day in the soom^r^ tyme.

This yeare and the xxj daye of Septe'ber beinge St. Mathews day and the fayre daye in Shrewsbery at wch fayre the horse fayre there and as that daye usually keapt in Francvil by the water syde but by reasoon of the gretnes of the wat' it was keapt in a fylld commily callyd M^r^. Yevans fylld being therby, behynd the yeorde the' beinge a stoobble and there for that tyme keappt.

1580-1. Wyllyam Jones & Wyllyam Herrynge Bayll's.

This yeare was chosen commen S'giant Rondle Rolles and the other twoe sargyantts weare Ellys Keffyn & Richard Harrys.

This yeare about the later ende of October aperid in the weast a blasinge starr wch contynewyd the space of iij weeks aspiringe towards the east.

This yeare and the ij daye of Novemb^r^ the quarter sessyons was keapt in Shreusbery callyd the grete sessyons and so callyd for the number of pryson's that there were as also the number of people, Mr. Foular[2] the' beinge Stuart wch sate

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[1] The Burgess Gate was the Upper Castle Gate which stood at right angles to the Free School Chapel across the street. It was used as a prison, and becoming ruinous was taken down.

[2] William Fowler, Esq., of Shrewsbury, and of Harnage Grange, 3rd son of Roger Fowler, of Broomhill, co. Stafford and . . . . .

uppon them iij dayes wch nev^{r} was seene to any memory but that the gaole delyv'y was don and dispatched in a day and a halffe at the most there were xv persoons condempnyd of the wch there were v that went to the place of execuc'on and the reast were savyd by theire boockes[1] and woome' supposyd to be wth chilld, it is to be notyd as conserni'ge the v p'sons wch cam to the place of execuc'on iiij of them were put to dethe and the v*th* being a mayde and for a smale tryfull beinge condemnyd who beinge of sutche pacions and godly behavyor in hyr jurney towards hyr deathe and howe she was mortyfyed to dye in pswadinge also the stubbernes of hyr fellowes at the place of execuc'on was stayed by one Mr. Doctor Bouckeley[2] a lernyd p'cher of God's woorde wch dyd well vewe the con-v'sacon of the sayde mayde uppon greate pytie brought hyr home for a tyme p'messinge to begge hyr lyffe and so dyd wch mayde lyvythe in the feare of God and dothe verey well.

This yeare and the xij*th* daye of February Sir Harry Sydneye Lorde President of the Marches of Wales wth the counsell cam from Ludlowe to this towne of Salop to keape the tearm here at whose cominge there were ij orac'ons made unto hym by twoe of the free scoole scollars wch were master Needams son and heyre and one of Master Justes Bromles soons standi'g bothe upon a scaffolde made at the condit at the Wyld coppe before Mr. Roger Harrys dore to whom the sayde Lorde gave greate prayse.

This yeare and the xxiij*th* daye of M'che being the last daye for that yeare acordinge to the compt of England beinge o^{r} Lady even and Good Frydaye one Thomas Bowdlar the yonger the soon of John Bowdlare sherman hangyd hymsellffe in the upp^{r} part of hys owne house upon a beame of the same beinge in Carnarvon Lane in Shreusberie.

This yeare 1581 and the xxiij*th* of Aprell beinge St Georgs daye the right honourable Sr Henry Sidney Lord President of the Marches of Wales beinge of the pryvey counsell and one of the Knights of the most noble ord^{r} of the garter keapt St Georgs feast in Shreusbery most honorably comm'nge the sayde day from the counsell howse there in hys knightly robbes most valiannt wth hys gentilme' before hym and hys knights

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sister of Rowland Lee, B'p of Lichfield. He was buried at Cound 1 March, 1597.

[1] That is, by "benefit of clergy." Being able to read and write.

[2] This was Edward Bulkeley, D.D., Prebendary of Chester, Minister of St. Mary's, and publick preacher of the town; son of Thos. Bulkeley, gent., of Wore, near Drayton. He died about 1606.

followinge hym in brave order and after them ye baylyffs and aldermen in theire scarlett gownes wth the companyes of all occupac'ons in the sayde towne in their best lyvereys and before ev'y wardens of ev'y company their ij stuards before the' wth white rodds in theire hands wch devydid ev'ye company followinge in good and seemly ord^{r} towards St Chadds churche where he was stallid upon the right h' syde of the quyer where he was stallid upon the right hande in the said chansell nere unto the queenes m^{ts} place preparid in the same quyer also wth all the nobilits armes that were knights of the garter and passinge and repassinge by the queenes m^{ts} place he dyd as mutche honor as thoughe hir m^{tie} had ben present, where he had there ye devine serves songe by note to the glorifienge of God and to the greate honor of the said Sr Henrie who began hys feast uppon the eve and kept open howsehold for the tyme, it ys to be notyd y^{t} there was sutche a goodly number of townes men followinge hym to the churche that whe' he entrid into the churche the lat^{r} end of the trayne was at my Lord's place or counsell house wch ys the iust lengthe of 700 pases at the least.

This yeare and the fyrst daye of Maye the mast^{rs} of the free scoole in Shrosbery whose names were Thomas Larrance, John Backer Rychard Atkys and Roger Kennt made a brave and costly bancket aft^{r} supper[1] of the same daye to the number of xl dishes and the mast^{r} before the' ev'g scoole presentinge x dyshes wythe a shewer before ev'y scoole p'nowncynge thesse words

Larrance 1. { Thesse are all of Larance lore
Acompt hys hart above his store.

Backer 2. { These x are all of Backers bannde
Good wyll not welthe nowe to be stande.

Atkys 3. { These x are all in Atkys chardge
His gyffts are smale hys good wyll lardge.

Kennt 4. { Thesse x coom last and are the least
Yett Kennts good wyll ys wth the beast.

These verses followinge were writte' that heare aft^{r} followe about the bancketinge dyshes

En mittunt librum libram non mittere possunt
Virgam non vaccam mittere quisq' potest.

The secounde daye of Maye all the scollars of the said free scoole beinge taught by the foresaid foure masters beinge in number ccclx wth theire mast^{rs} before ev'y of them marchinge bravely from the free scoole in battell order wth theire generalls

[1] Supper in those days was served about 5 p.m.

captens, droomes, troompetts and ensings before them throughe the towne towards a lardge filldc callyd the Geye beinge in the abbey suburbes of Salop and there devydinge theire banndes in iiij parts mett the sayde Lord P'sident beinge uppon a lusty courser invyroninge hym aboute and cam to him the generall openinge to his Lordship hys purposse and assembly of hym and the reast the' he wth the other captens made theire orac'ons howe valiantly they wold feight and defennde the countrey at wch the sayde Lord had greate pleasure and mutche rejoysyd gyvyng great prayse to the sayde master fo^r^ the Eloquency thereof.

This yeare and the viij*th* daye of Maye Syr Henry Sydney Lord P'sydent aforesaide departid from Shreusbery by wat' and toocke hys bardge under the Castell hyll by hys place and as he passid by the' were xiiij chamber pe'cs bravely shott of wth a serte' shott of hargabusheyrs and so passinge alongst not the lengthe of a quarter of a myle of by water there weare placid in an Ilott hard by the water syde serte' apoyntyd scollars of the free scoole beinge apparelyd all in greene and greene wyllows uppon theire heades maringely callinge to hym mackinge there lamentable orac'ons sorrowinge hys departure the wch was doon so pytyfully and of sutche excellency that truly itt made many bothe in the bardge uppon the water as also people upon land to weepe and my Lorde hym selffe to chandge countenance and because the orac'ons of the sayd nymphes are soomwhat tedious to put them here downe I thought it beast to place here the fynyshinge of the later staffe of the last nymphe that spacke wch sange the hole songe wth mus'es playeinge & fynyshynge in this man'

And wyll yor honor needs depart
& most it needs be soe
Wold God wee could lyck fyshes swyme
that we might wth the goe.
Or ells wold God this lytill Ile
were stretchid owt so lardge
That we one foote might follow y^o^
& wayte upon the bardge

But seeinge we cannot swyme
and Ilelands at an ennde
Safe passage wth a short returne
the myghtie God thee sende.[1]

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[1] These verses were probably written by our Salopian poet, Thomas Churchyard

And so the bardge departid the baylyffs and serte' of the aldrme' accompaninge hym by wat' untill he cam to Atcham brydge and there they dynyd all togeather in the bardge uppon the water and after dyner tackinge theire leave wth moorni'g countenance's dep'tid.

This yeare and in the moonthe of Maye one Mystress Barnefilld of Newport beinge xij myles from Shrewsbery kyllyd hyr sellffe the cause thereof was that not onely shee beinge gellows of hyr husband and also not p'fect in mynde, one night beinge in bed wth hyr sayde husband and holdinge a nackid knyffe in hyr hannd wold have cutt hyr husbands throte and myssinge hys wesand pype awackid uppon the same and stayed hyr furie and so callyd for helpe and lockid hyr in a darcke chambere wthout any knyffe about hyr or any thinge ells to hurt hyr sellffe, but wthin a daye or twoe she aspieed a rusty broade arrowe hedd in a pryvey place and therewth cutt hyr owne throate most wyckydly.

This yeare a fyld behynnd the walles in Shrosbery comm'nly callyd the behynde the walles[1] beinge at libertie by reason of asembly of the counsell of the towne and the comm'ns it was put to farme agayne for iij yeares unto master Purser, master Teanche, master Owen, Mr. Burnell, master Perche Wm Joanes &c. to paye furthewth for the same cxij*li* towards the purchasinge of the vicoradge of St Chadds for evr.[2]

This yeare and in the moonthe of June the crosse wch stoode in Saynet Mary's churcheyorde in Salop was pullyd downe by nyght and there was one Taylar of Hadnoll beinge executyd for robbery buried in the same place where the sayde crosse stoodd.

This yeare two of the newe byldyd shopps uppon the Walshe bridge in the towne of Salop are alteryd and made for pryveys for necessary easment for strangers.

This yere and the iiij*th* daye of September was a woorshypfull weddinge solempnysed in St Chadd's churche in Salop betweene master George Bromeley soon and heyre unto Mr. Justes Bromeley and mystres Jane Leighton daughter to the woorshipfull Mr. Leighton of Watelsbowrw, the wedding was keapt in Mr. Onslows howse and master Myttoons unto the wch cam the warshipfull of the shire and greate resort of people to se the braverye thereof the lycke weddynge was not in Shrewsbery to anymans memorie lyvinge heretofore.

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[1] Now called the Quarry.

[2] See O. & B., 2, 210, as to the restoration of this Vicarage to the Crown.

1581-2. Thomas Sherer & Thomas Lewys Baylyffs.

This yere was chose' to be comme' sargyant George Benyon and the other two sargiaunts were John Smythe & John Lewys.

This yeare and at the first commynge in of thesse baylyffs there was an order tacken by the advyse of Mr. Doctor Bouckeley that ev'ye Moonday Weansday and Frydaye throughout the yeare in the churches of the towne of Shreusberie serveys should be usually sayd ev'y of those mornings and to begyn in thys order at St Chadds churche there to begyn at eyght of the clocke, at St Jellyans at ix of the clocke and at St Maries at x of the clocke that all people at ev'y of thosse houres may at theire leysures praye unto God that yf tyme over passe them at one churche theye may have it at the oders and not mysse that God maye be callyd uppon to the glorye of hys holy name wch ys a good and godly begyninge the Lorde be praysyd for.

This yeare and the xj*th* daye of Februarie were three me' drownyd at Moontfords bridge beinge foure myles from Shrousbery whose names weare Roger Pursell Roger Nesse and Rychard the weav' wch three the same daye beinge in boate to geat up a broom of wood lyenge in the water were by myschance in faylyng of theire hollts overturnyd all three in the wat' there and so drownyd.

This yeare and the viij*th* daye of Marche 1581, were seene in the Elyme't in the nyght woonderfull fyerye flames rysinge from the east spredinge it sellffe almost ov' all the northewest horison contynewinge the space of an howre and more.

This yeare and in the moonthe of Februarie were all the souldiars in Ireland dyschardgid and ev'y man went whom to thyre countrey.

This yeare and the xix*th* of Marche were drownyd beneathe Terne Bridge by Shrousbery a lytyll from Atcham in the countie of Salop a yonge man & a mayde who dwellyd bothe in Atcham and should have be' marieed at Easter followinge whose names were Davyd Geordge and Lucy Woorsam the cause of theire drowninge was this, they beinge bothe in a boate uppon the sayd wat' togeather huntinge geesse whomwards of the wat' the boate chaunsyd to stricke against a stacke and so toornyd the' bothe wth the sayde blowe over the heades into the sayd water in the syght of the sayde mayds moother beinge on land on thother syde of the water and never rosse agayne and so p'sently tacke' up bothe deadd and buried togeather.

This yeare & the xxiiij*th* daye of Marche being Saterdaye one John Capper beinge of late the clarcke of the Abbey of

U. OF ILL. LIB

Shreusberie was drawe' throughe Shrewsberie & hangyd at Kyngsland by Shreusberie for treason. the sayde Capper was aprehendid by Mr Prynce of Salop uppon suspic'on of a pretencid robberie betwen hym and one Lyllye soomtymes servant wth the sayde Mr. Prynce wch robbery should have been doon by them uppon the sayd Mr. Prynes howse so upon the examynac'on of the matter by master Prynce and others at soondrie tymes at leangthe confessyd the practyse, that the sayde Lyllye had in hys house in counterfetinge the queenes mts coyne of serten peces of vj*d* beringe the date of or Lorde God 1575 and at ye place of execuc'on he denyeed that ev' he had any benyfyte of sutche money but Lylly told hym that he had made serten pecys of vj*d* of the sayde date wch he nev' utteryd wth mutche other talke and further sayde yf Lylly hadd been stayde whoe made an escape he hadd been savyd & so dyeed wthout any feare of deathe.

This yeare and in the sayde moonthe of Marche 1582 the famus howse in the Abbe foryate in the towne of Shreusberie sytuate by a greate barne callyd the Abbotts barne was boyldid by one master Prynce Lawyar callid master Prynes place the foondac'on began in Marche 1578 so was it iiij yeares in buyldinge to hys greate chardge, wth fame to hym and hys posterite for ev'.[1]

This yeare and the xxv*th* daye of Ap'll cam to the towne of Shreusberie on namyd Anthony Frynpan beinge a Flemminge borne and of the towne of Handwerp who was ij yards and a halffe of heyght and lodgid at master Thomas Myttoons howse under the Wyle and many people resortid bothe of the towne and coountrey to see sutche rare syght. And departinge from Shreusberie towards Loondoon he was robbid of all the money he hadd for he had gottun before he cam to the sayde towne a greate peece of money and by the way as he cam as also comminge into the towne wold keepe hym sellffe privey and wold not be seene wthout money wherfore for hys covetous mynde he was preventid and so lost all that he had for he used to keepe his money wth hym whyther soevr he went.

This yeare & the ij of May at Polet hyll nere Cothercott Elnor Gwyn hanged her sellfe wth hir kercheffe sytting on the grounde at the sprige of an holly.

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[1] Prynce's Place, now called the Whitehall, was in all probability built with stone from the ruins of the Abbey. The "Abbots Barn" may have been the large outbuilding on the north side of the yard of the mansion.

This yeare and the xix*th* daye of Maye there was at Hughlye vj myles from Shreusbery ij p'soons kyllyd wth thoonder, whose names were Thomas Lewis soon to Richard Lewis ye farmar of Hughelie in the countie of Salop and Mr. Pygotts mayde goinge bothe uppon an arand and cominge together whomwards a tempest toocke the' and avoydinge the same under a tree not passinge halffe a myle from Hughelye ye light bolt kyllyd them pytyously.

This yeare and in the moonthe of Maye one Capten Mackwoorthe beinge a Shropshire man and borne in Shrosbery towne servinge of long tyme in Ireland and as bold a man as ev' servid there (who in hys tyme had slayne great numbers of Iryshe rebells) was taken by a trane goinge from Dynelyn whom to hys house by those wch hee mystrustid least and so by hys enymys was cruelly dismembryd and manglid in pec's savinge hys headd wch was cutt of whole and no p't therof defacid & the same sennt to the Earle of Desmoonde.

This yeare and the xxx*th* daye of Julii the greate assyse was kept in Shreusberie being Shyrrefe of the sayde shyre Mr. Wyllyams[1] of Wyllaston who cam in wth the Judgs in woorthy order and kept for the tyme of the said assyse in my Lords place there a plentifull howse duringe all the tyme of his aboade.

This yeare and in the begyninge of October and before the elect'on of the newe baylyffs were lxxvj newe burgesses or freemen made and tacken in to the freedoom of Salop and the money wch they payde for their commynge in amountid to the soom of iij*c* iiij^{xx} *li* wch was apoyntid to be applied to the yearely p'fett of xl*li* for the mayntenance of a preachar to contynewe for ev' in the sayde towne of Salop.

1582-3 Wyllyam Tenche & Edward Owen Baylyffs.

This yeare was chosen to be commen sergiant for this towne of Shreusberie Rychard Teggyn and thoder ij sergyants were Willyam Barns and Thomas Sprystowe.

This yeare & the daye of November the xxv persons that wennt uppon the last Elect'on were callyd agayne to ellect and chusse a newe syxeman for and in the place of Thomas Doon wch late dysceassyd and there was of the sayd xxv persoons ij wantinge for whom the ij p'soonns wch callyd the Elect'on whose names were M^{r}. George Prowde and master Rychard a Powell who dyd call ij others and so they wennt togeather into

[1] Thomas Williams of Wollaston, par. of Alberbury, son of Reginald Williams, of a Welsh family. Arms :—*Sa* 3 nag's heads erased *erm.* Blakeway's *Sheriffs.*

the Elect'on howse and dyd choose John Byston gentill' to supply the place wth the reast for the hole yere ensuinge.

This yeare and the iiij*th* of February one John Prestedge alias Hyll of Shreusberie joyner (so namyd because he dwelt wth a pryest callyd Hyll) was hangid uppon a gybbet placyd uppon the greene by the watersyde by the Abbey myll over against hys howse uppon the Stone bridge in Shrousberie who hangid there iij dayes The cause of hys death was for murtheringe hys wyffe and so cast hyr pryvely over the said bridge into the water wch was doon before X'ras and could not be founde but a lytill before the towne sessions as God wold have it revealyd so uppon manyfest p'ffs condemnyd (althoughe at his raingme't & also at the howre of hys deathe stowtly denyde the same) who wold have ben quytt and savyd at the sayd sessyons yf God of hys mercy had not brought hyr to light.

This yeare and about this tyme there was greate suyte made by men of West Chester to the queens m^{ti} and the pryvey counsell for to have the sale and market of Walshe clothe removed from Oswester[1] to the cytie of Chester by the onely labour of one Peter Newale of the sayd cytie of Chester the wch had been a greate decaye to the hole towne of Shreusbury and also of Oswestrie the wch had almost passyd against them yf Sr Thomas Bromley beinge Lorde Chaunselor of England had not (by hys greate wysdoom) openyd the same to the queens M^{ti} for the wch godly deede theye of the sayd townes are contynewally bownde to praye daylye for.

This yeare and the xj*th* daye of Marche beinge Moonday at nyght the right honorable Lady Mary Sydneye cam to this towne of Salop in hyr wagon[2] and toocke hyr lodgyngs at my Lord's place there, and the xix*th* day ensuinge the most valyant knight Sr Harry Sydney hyr husband beinge Lorde President of the Marches cam also from Ludlowe to this towne of Salop in honorable maner and as he passyd in hys wagon by the condit[3] at the Wylde coppe were made ij excellent

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[1] See many "Papers relating to the Welsh Cloth Trade. 1622-1644" in *Trans.* Shropsh. Arch. Soc., 3, 132.

[2] The "wagon" was the precurser of our present carriages, and by its strong construction better suited to the then rough state of the roads. It was generally covered and lined with fine coloured cloth fringed with silk, lined with buckram, and had hammer cloths with armorial bearings and badges.

[3] The conduit on the Wyle Cop is represented in the plan of the Town made for Lord Burleigh, temp. Elizth.

orac'ons by twoe of the freescoole scollars whose names were Jerram Wryght and Thomas Crewe stainge in hys waggon to heare the same the wch in the ennde he praysyed verey well and so passinge throughe towards hys Ladye wth his troompeter blowynge verey ioyfully to behold and see.

This yeare and the xxj*d.* day of Marche about viij of clocke at nyght aperid in the Elyme't fyery flames p'ceadinge owt of the northe east and so passinge towards the weast the Elyme't in that parte for the space of more than an owre toornyd as redd as blood and so vanyshid awaye.

This yeare and the xx*th* daye of Aprell 1583 one Jamys Lloid beinge servaunt wth Syr Harry Sydney Lorde President was putt on the pyllory[1] in the market place of Shreusberie and one of hys eares naylyd to the same and also presently whippid for counterfetinge the sayd Lord President name and hand writinge.

This yeare and the xv*th* of Maye a marvelows grete clap of thoond^r^ wth lighteninge chancyd to light uppon one ennde of master George Hyggyns howse in Shreusberie and stroocke the raffter of hys house ennde and clave the same a soonder the fall whereof kyllyd a pygge of the same master Higgyns beinge in a stye neere thereunto.

This yeare from the highe crosse in Shreusberie down to the Shoomack^r^ rowe ennde as also alonge the Castell foryate beinge one of the suburbs of the sayde towne the streets thereof weere newe pavyd verey pleasaunt for all passengers wch before were holye and dangerous for horsemen & others.

This yeare and about the ennde of Maye one Mr. Robart Corbet a Shropshire gentil' soon and heyre to Syr Andrewe Corbet of Murt'n Corbet goinge up to Loondon to vyset hys uncle Water Corbet of Loondoon who anon after hys commynge dyeed of the plage and ye sayd Robart by reasoon of the infect'on dieed there also, who was of greate estimac'on wth the queenes m^ti^ and the nobilytie because he coulde speacke perfectly soondry forrayne langags by reason of hys longe absence in hys youthe owt of England in forrayne coontreys and especially traynyd up as it were in the Emperours court who was lycke to have coom to greate woorship yf he had lyvyd and had also been a greate staye and countennce to the hole shyre and especyally to the towne of Salop whose deathe was gretly lamentid whose dead bodye was brought from Loondoon downe to hys sayd place in the

[1] The pillory is represented in the plan made by order of Lord Burleigh.

coountrey where he was the xxiij*th* daye of Julye burieed there by hys father & hys auncientrie verey wo'shipfully.

This yeare and the xvij*th* daye of July cam to the towne of Shreusbry one John Taylor sometymes a marchant of Loondoon and free of the coompany of Fyshmoongers there who lodgyd at one John Blesse and brought thyder wth hym strange and woonderfull syghts thas ys to saye a dead childe in a coffyn wch had ij heades and one hole bodye proporshyonably the wch bodie had ij bake boanes. More a lyve sheepe beinge a tupp the wch had vj feete iij of those feete as other sheepe have in p'fect place and propor'ion and theoder ij feete commynge out under hys foondame't wch dyd hange downe and nev' towchyd ye grownde more hee had ij foondements under hys tayle, also ij pyssolls and ij paire of codds devydyd sonderley being in theyre usuall placs and yf the partee wch keapt hym wold aske hym and saye be thesse people welcoom he wold lyft up hys forefoote and crye heighe, heighe, heighe, more he brought wth hym a pygge the wch had ij lytyll hornes growinge owt of hys headd hyr tayle growinge out of hyr backe and a monsterous bygge belly and of shortness lycke a purpentyne; also more a lyve Eagle a purpentyne of the sea dead and a dead calffe wth ij heades also a wylde lyve Lyncks commonly callyd a wyld catt beinge a fyrce beast to whom the keeper wold offer to stricke but she wold firstly defennde the blowe wth hyr pawes rasing the staffe myschevouslye And also more a glasse artyfycially made beinge but ij candells therin and a chayne wth ij facs or pycturs wch wold represent inwardly to thesight of the beholders soondry candells, chaynes, facys juells and other things myrac'ously.

This yeare and the xxij daye of July the great assyse was keapt in Shreusbery contynewinge ij dayes and a halffe the Judges lay at master Onslows place and the Shyreffe whose name was master Foxe[1] laye at master Purcells place who cam in wth the sayde Judgs wth the number of xlij horse beinge all hys men and all in a livery and well horsyd whoe kept a plentyfull howse all the tyme of hys aboade.

This yeare and the xxiiij*th* daye of September being Tuesdaye at nyght one Bryan's howse in Woorthen ix myles from Shreusberye was by a greate myschance burnt in the wch fyer one Lawncelot Gyttyns was burnt verey pytyfully. The sayd Gyttyns wennt ones owt of the howse beinge on fyer from

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[1] Charles Fox, of Cainham and Broomfield, son of William Fox, of St. John's, Ludlow, Member of the Council of the Marches. Arms: *arg* a chevron between 3 foxes heads erased *gu*. Blakeway's *Sheriffs*.

the danger thereof but beinge a bold and a venterous man (more was to be pytied somwhat to bold) returnyd in agayne to fatche owt a cupburde & bringinge the same throughe a doore stacke so fast in the sayd doore that it could neyther goe in nor owt by reasoon wherof he neyther coulld passe furthe' but was forsyd to get alofte in a man' throughe the forse of the fyer and leappinge to saye throughe an upper wyndow there fell wth hym a peece of tymber wch dashyd hys braynes aboute hys eares and so pytiously burnt.

This daye and the iij*th* daye of October at night being the nyght before the Electon of the newe baylyffs the stoane crosse in St Jellyans churche yarde in Salop was pullyd downe.

This yeare and the iiij*th* daye of October beinge Fryday in the mor'inge before they went to the electon of the newe baylyffs there was by the old baylyffs p'clamac'on made throughe the towne of Salop that no scollars, boyes nor prentises shulld that nyght goe a broade to dysquyett the towne wth unreasonable noyses feyghtings and dysorders wch were woontt usually to proceede as that nyght and y^{t} ev'y housholder should not suffer theire servants scollars ner others in theire howses to depart furthe that night uppon ye payne of v*li* wch was keapt and so all things p'ceedid quyetlye and endid in good tyme and in god order.

1583-4 George Hyggyns & Mychell Chamber Baly.

This yeare was chosen commen s'giant for the towne of Salop John Baughe skynner & Theoder ij sergyants were John Coyde and Ryc' Many'ge taylor.

This yeare and in the moonthe of November one Downes doughter being mayde to mystres Mary Corbet of Murtu' in the countie of Salop upon a wyckyd pretence and opynyon take' wyllfully kyllyd hyr selffe wth hyr owne knyfe.

This yeare and in the sayd moonthe of December a serv'nt of Rychard Gardn' of Salop whose name was Thomas Cott'n was by myschance fallyn in to a furnes of whot boylinge lycker and so presently boylyd to deathe.

This yeare there was order tacken in the towne of Shreusbery to knowe the howres of xj of the clocke at noone and v. of the clocke at night there shuld a bell toll in Sainct Maris churche to gyve serte' knowledge to the scollars of the free-scoole there and also for the inhabitants & other beinge verey neccessary and commodious as ap'taynid.

This yeare and in the begynni'ge of the sayd baylyffs tyme the seate for the baylyffs and Aldermen in the Guyld hall comme'ly callyd the boothe hall in Shreusberie was waynskottid in more coomlyer and comme'dabler order then before.

This yeare the coansell of the Marches kept terme all the Lennt in Shreusbery.

This yeare one Richard Clowes of Darlesoon in the countie of Salop soomtymes a kariar (havinge hys triall for murtheringe a passinger wch cam from Ireland wth chardge of money in Presse hethe) was hangid in chaynes in the sayde heathe the 25*th* day of M'che to the exsample of the lycke wyckyd.

This yeare and in these baylyffs tymes 1583 the drawe bridge upon the Stone gate in Shreusberie beinge in decaye was repayrid and newe raylid.

This yeare and the 17 of Marche one John Rawlyns of Ratly choppe in the countie of Salop beinge a begger hangid hym sellffe in an old coate or cowe house wth a lease cast ov' a beame in the same cote and there was founde in hys house bills of debt owynge hym for the soom of 50*li* or ther abouts a just reward by the dyvill uppon sutche dyssymbli'g beggers.

This yeare in Wostenstowe in the countie of Salop twoo men were sawying of a greate broonde lyeinge uppon the grownde and as soone as the same was sauid a soonder one halffe of the same rowlyd uppon one of the' and brossyd hym presently to deathe most pytifully.

This yeare and the vj*th* day of Maye 1584 cam to the towne of Shreusbery serte' commysson^rs^ from my Lords of Cantherbery whose names were Doctor Byckeley, Doctor Merick & the archedecon of [Darby] to se orders in the churches as cons'ninge uses in the churche for weringe syrpleses Xr'inge of Childre' and sate uppon the same in St Chadds churche there and the baylyffs and clergy uppon theyre co'scent pullyd downe the crosses in St Chadds church yarde, and St Alkmoonds downe to the grownde and in the bottom of St Chadds crosse was foounde a fayre stoane uppon the wch was gravyn a butchars axe and a butchars Knyffe by the wch ys to be iudged that the company of the butchers payd for the chardge of buyldinge of the same also was foounde behynde one of the pyctures in the sayd crosse a waxe candell offrid by soom superstic'ous p'soon.

This yeare at Wem one Robart Bold hangid hym sellff standing on the grownde.

This yeare and the xxv*th* daye of Maye the Lord Robart Dudley Earle of Lecester and Lorde Robart Devereux Earle of Essex wth the Lorde Northe cam to Shreusberie and were R— of the woorshipfull of the shire and also of the baylys wth hys breethe' the alderme' and other to the number of xxiiij scarlet gownes wth the scollars of the freescoole and companyes of the occupa'ions of the same towne in comely and seemely

order and at the coondit at the upper ennde of the wylde coppe were 3 orac'ons made unto hym by Mr. Thomas Sydney hys systers soonn, Rychard Hoorde & Edward Higgoons bothe in prosse and myter. The effect of Mr. Thomas Sydneys orac'on was this. He reveren'ly salutid hym in the name of the hole towne howe glad they were to see him desiringe his honor to thinge well of the towne who had in a man' nurcid hym in lerni'ge wth lovinge intertaynement from the highest to the least humbly prainge his honour to gyve the baylyffs and all the reast thancks in his behallffe. The other two dyd declare what noble stocke he cam of and was the chyffyst flowre in floorryshinge the same howe valiant in all his actts and attempts and what triumphant ennde he hathe brought and brings them unto and howe highely esteemyd of the prynce here for his wysdoom and pollitick counsell of sutche longe contyneuid peace what blessings of God he hathe r's^{d} to prevent foren prync's and pacyfie'g theyre intysid purposes and always domesticall & fore' traytors revelyd non of his noble stocke the lycke, and in the ennd shewid howe joyful all the towne were to see hym repetinge hys noble hart towards the prosperitie of the same, and so endid wyshing hys honor to tacke all things in good p't prainge the Almighty to contynewe hys honor wth Nestor's yeares and the' passid throughe to master Onslow's place beinge furnyshid by Mr. Leightoon and beinge there quyet there was presentid unto hym from the baylyffs a standinge coop of sylve' gyllt wherein the' was xx*li* in angells a hogshead of wyne and bancketinge dyshes to the valewe in all of xl*li* wch of hys honor he thanckfully rs^{d}, the next morninge he went to vysett the free scoole there to whom were made unto hym soondry orac'ons gratifienge the masters of the scoole wth soondry rewards, then cam he from thence to St. Marys churche where he hard serveys and an excellent sermoond mad there unto hym by master Toomkys and so dep'tyd to hys foresaid place, and after dyner toocke hys jurney towards Oswestrie and so to Denbighe and passyd throughe Chester whomwards.

This yeare and the fyrst daye of June was rearid a newe frame wth a turninge stayre to entir into the boothe hall in Salop in the place of the olde stayres at the rearinge of wch buyldinge one Wyllyam Eyton all's dict' W of the hall beinge a very stoute laborar & a bold stronge man and a tall fell of the topp of the said buyldinge downe to the grownde and so spoylde to deathe and never spacke woord and was burieed in St Chadds churche yard where he had buried a thousand for he was a comme' macker of graves for the dead.

And it is also further to be remembrid that the baylyffs of the towne keapt the checker at mast^{r} Richard Myttoons place in the cornemarkett because the stayre to goe up to the hall were not redye made as that daye beinge Monday and checker daye.

This yeare and the thrid daye of June beinge Wensday before Whytsoontyde and the fayre daye in Shrousberie at Dorryngetoon wthin the countie of Salop Joane Browneford hanged hyrsellffe in hyr fathers howse verey strangely sytting uppon the grownde.

This yeare the baylyffes of Salop and comme' cownsell of the same made an order and regestrid the same that no forryn' should be admyttid to the freedom of the sayd towne except he payde x*li* besyds the chardge.

This yeare Rye was in Shreusbery at 15 and 16*d.* the bushell and wheate at 2*s.* 6*d.*

This yeare and about the begyninge of Julii at Prestoke beinge a myle from Hughly in the countie of Salop two coontrey boyes keepinge theire masters oxen uppon a grene fallinge owt the one wth the other one of the' stroocke the other wth the butt ennde of hys goade under the syde of the head and so fell presenntly downe as it were dead, the other roonning away uppon the same levinge thoder so lye'g and soomwhat comminge to hym sellffe got up so well as he coulde and goinge weakly towards home fell downe agayne starck dead and the other p'tie being apprehendid brought as prison' to Shreusbery untill the assisse.

This yeare and the 7 daye of Julii 1584 one Hughe ap Eavan all's Pen Mawre of Salop taylor hangyd hym selffe wth hys owne leather gyrdle under a lyttill bridge nere to a style by the waterside beinge in a fylld of my Lady Newports be hynde the Castell foryate callid cowe medowe the bridge that he hangyd hym sellffe one was not passinge 3 foote hyghe syttinge uppon hys buttocks hys chynn toochynge the sayde bridge hys hannds beinge at lybertie the wch was verey strandge to the beholders except the dyvill shulld be an helper therewth as he ys redy uppon despera'ion to further sutche poorposis and there leaves them to their shame.

This yeare and the 17 daye of Julii A^{o} p'd there was a notable stadge playe played in the Heye Streete in Shreusbery in the aple market place there by the Earle of Essexe men openly and freely.

This yeare and the 18 daye of July about ij of the clocke at mydnight there was a fyer at St John's Hyll in Shreusbery to saye in one Harry Griffeths howse there beinge a weav' wch cam

by myschance of a candell and so burnyd the saide Hughe Gryffyths howse and the howse next to it weast warde and a peace of a howse eastward and had lycke to have been mutche hurt doon yf the saide Earle of Essexe me' had nott manfullye venturid in great danger especially and others in generall great hurt had been doon by the reason of barns hard by full of corne and straw the sayd tenim'ts beloongid to Mr. Lloyd of Salop alderman.

This yeare and the xxviii*th* daye of July one John Wyllyams the elder of Preston goobolls wthin the lybertie of Salop in the countie of Salop husbandman beinge of the adge of 70 yeares and well to lyve wyckydly and desperately hangid hym sellffe wythe a wayne rope in the forenoone of the sayde daye wthin the entry of hys owne howse; the Lorde be mercyfull unto us the lycke yeare hathe not been seene of any mans memory of the number of people that hathe desperately spylyd them selves in all countres especially throughe Englannd in hanginge murtheringe and drowninge them sellffes the Almightie God be o^{r} gyde and defender in all wyckyd assaults of the worlde the fleshe & the dyvell Amen.

This yeare also and about the ennde of July the boothe hall of the towne of Shreusbery was sylyd wthin overhedd and newe garnyshid to saye where the baylyffs and Aldermen sytt and the syrcuyt thereof in bewtyfull and decent order against the commynge of the Judges of Assyse.

This yeare and the x*th* daye of August 1584 the great assyses was kept in Shreusberie M^{r}. Cressedge[1] beinge Shyrreff who cam woorshipfully in wth the said Judgs the assizes contynewinge untill Wensday at noone beinge the xij*th* daye of the same moo'the, the sayd Judgs lye'nge at M^{r}. Byrryngtons place and the sayd Shyrreff at my Lords place who kept a plentyfull howse for ye tyme of hys abode.

This yeare and the vij*th* daye of September 1584 the town of Shreusberie was musterid by Mr. Leyghtoon and 24 apoynted and they havinge chardge to apeere upon Thursday followinge beinge the x*th* daye at Atcham wheare all the rest of the souldiars of the shyre mett before theire apoyntyd capte's and there beinge were chosen owt of the sayd 24 twelve able and sufficient p'soons and theire prest money delyverid them havinge in chardge to be ready at an owres warninge and so departyd ev'y man hoome.

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[1] Edward Cressett, of Upton Cressett and Holgate Castle. Arms: *az.* a cross within a bordure both engrailed *or*.—Blakeway's *Sheriffs*.—There is a view of Holgate Castle in Mrs. S. Acton's *Garrisons*, p. 48.

This yeare and the xij*th* daye of September being the thursday before saynct Mathews daye beinge the usuall daye for election of Awditors for the towne of Shreusberie was agreid at the sayd assembly that xx*ti* burgessis should be tacken in for the soom of v*li* a pece notwthstandinge the order take' aforesayd because that the towne had a present sute in hand verey benyfyciall and needfull.

This yeare and the xxj*th* day of Septembe' being St Mathews daye and also the fayre daye in Shreusberie the horsse fayre was kept in the backesyde of Edward Myntoons in Franckvill in a teynter crofte there becawse Syvern wat' coverid over all the usuall place of the horsefayre there at that tyme.

1584-5. John Dawys & John Webbe Baylyffs.

This yeare was chosen comme' sargiant Rychard ap Rychard wevar and the other two sargiants were Roger Illedge merc' and David Longdoon shoomaker.

This yeare and the xix*th* daye of October betwixt 8 and x of the clocke at nyght apeerid in the ellyme't northeward fyery inflamac'ons and aspyringe flames verey myraculows.

This yeare and the iiij*th* daye of November the burgesis of Shreusbery assembled together at the boothe hall for the elect'n of two burgesis for the parlyme't and beinge three of them in choyse and not lawfully to be iudgid wch twoe of them shoulld bee whose names were mast^{r} Thomas Owen Mr. Richard Barkar & Mr. Harris they were comma'did to goe throughe the doore by pole and theire voyces wrytten and so there was uppon Owen syde 366 voyces upon Barkars syde 299 and uppon Harris syde 176 so that Owen and Barkar were made by most elect'on burgesis of the parlime't for this town of Shreusberie.

This yeare and the xij*th* daye of November aforsayd the worshipfull of Shropshire mett at the castell of Shrewsberie where they chose two knights for the parlyment whose names were master Lvsoon and Mr. Bromeleye beinge soon and heyre to master iustes Bromeleye who were made betwyxt 8 & 9 of the clocke in the morninge.

This yeare and the xiij daye of December being Soondaye betwixt vij and viij of the clocke at night were two geldinges stollen owt of master Dawys stable in Rowsell beinge the bayly takinge wth them their owne sadles & owne bridles verey conningly and also boldly and the theeves were pursuyd wthin ij howres after soondrie wayes but coulld not be harde of, the saide geldings were estemyd woorthe better the' xv*li*, as bold a part as ev' was hard in Shrousbery Godd sennd them as they have deservyd.

This yeare and the xviij*th* daye of Febru' beinge Thursdaye a° p'd there fell sutche extreeme tempest all England ov' that dyd mutche harme, and especially at a villadge callyd Lyncell beinge 10 myles from Shreusberie that by the reasoon of the extreeme force therof blewe the fyery coales owt of an iron fordge callyd a boome fordge uppon a thatchid alehowse therby that presently fyerid all the thatche of the same howse and so blewe the whole thatche in flames a broade the towne, by myschaunce wherof was burnyd at the least xiiij howses and a barnefull of corne, to the utter undoinge of the whole towne in a man'.

This yeare and in the sayd moonthe of Februarie 1584 the steeple of the churche of St Alkmonds[1] in Shreusberie was newe poynted by one Geordge Arthor of St Talbons by Loundon ploomn' to fynyshe the same who (beinge a very symple man and soomwhat lame hys showes also clowtyd wth iron) the xx*th* daye of February beinge Saterday and in the after noone of the same daye clymyd up to the topp of the same steeple beinge lxvj yards of height from the bottoom wth the sayd clowtid showes upon hys feete and brought downe the sayd coke being of brasse and wainge 12 pownds beinge also of sysse to say in lengthe from the bill to the ennde of his tayle iij quart' of a yarde and in brod^th^ from hys combe to the bottom of hys belly halfe a yard lackinge ij ynches and the secoonde daye of Marche beinge Tuesdaye in lycke man' clymyd upp and did put the saide coke upon the top of the sayd steeple agayne tur'inge it abowt soondrie tymes standing up right uppon the iroon crosse beinge a rayny and wyndy daye shakinge hys hannds and leggs abroade to the admyrac'on of the behold^s^ who also the x*th* daye of Marche followinge beinge Wensdaye clymyd upp to the sayd steeple topp agayne in lycke maner takinge wth hym a drume and a longe bowe and arrowes and standi'g upright upon the crosse of the same shott an arrowe owt of the sayd bowe and played there uppon the sayde droom, Also agayne and last of all the xiij*th* daye of Marche beinge Saturday he clymyd up in lycke man' to the top of the sayde steeple and turnid the sayd coke abowt lycke a wheele shakinge hys armes and leggs whootinge and crieinge stayinge there turni'g abowt the crosse and toynge almost 2 howres and so cam downe sober as he always dyd, but goinge upp at ev'y tyme droncke as hys man' was.

Thys yeare and the 12 of Aprell the counsell of the Marches of Wales cam to Shreusberie and contynewyd there.

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[1] In Phillips, p. 100, is a view of old St. Alkmond's Church.

Thys yeare in Ap'll the plage was in Oswestrye so that the Walshe clothe & market was kept at the Knockyn beinge 9 myles from Shrewsberie and thyder the Drapers of Shreusberie ev'y Moonday dyd resort to by theyre clothe there until it plesyd God to seasse the sayd sycknes at Osestry wch was frequentid agayne there in the former usuall trade the secoonde daye of August after and the sayd Knoockyn gyve' over.

This yeare and the 15 daye of Maye Lord Robar Devereux yonge Earle of Essex cam from master Leightoons of Watilsboorowe throughe the towne of Shreusberie before whom was made soondrie orac'ons by the scollars of the free scoole and standinge in battell raye wth bowes & arrowes at hys passadge throughe the castell gate reioysyd at the sight of them gyvinge them greate rewards wth harty thancks.

This yeare and the 18 daye of Maye the burgessys & comme's of the towne of Salop assemblyd togeather in the boothe hall conserninge the elect'on and choyse of twoe meen to followe the suyte of behynde the Walles upon the charge of the towne against Mr. Hoorde & others wch clayme the same so that they all agreed uppon Rychard Owen of the stalls in Salop draper and Rychard Hyggyns tann' and the xxth daye of Maye followinge serten of Mr. Prynces men in the quarrell of the sayd master Woorde whoe had sowen soom parte thereof wth barley wthout the conscennt of the saide towne to whom the inheritance belongid tyme owt of mynde in paying a smale anuall rennt to the sayd Whord's p'dicessors because never any p'sons coulld mere owt therof his iust p't[1] and at no tyme put eather to pasture or arable, wthout the consent of the hole towne, The com'ens at that tyme as usuall sutche tymes they have doon put theire cattell to grase there where uppon the sayd master Prynces men dryvinge owt the cattell powndinge and mysusinge the same a number of the boyes of the towne not knowen of theire parents because they wold not losse their right drove the sayd master Prynce's men wth clodds owt of the fillde and behoond the woll so the matter cam to heringe of the worshipfull of the Shire and they toocke order that the townes me' shoulld frequent theyre acoostomyd order untill the matter were trieed by commen lawe and so the said master Princes corne to be spoyllyd.

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[1] It is probable that this relates to the unenclosed ground in the Quarry, 16 yards every way from a large stone on the edge of the Dingle, now belonging to John Harley Esq. of Rossall, and for which the Corporation pay him an annual rent of 4s. 6d.

This yeare and about this tyme the estates of Flanders cam into England to the queenes maiesty to intreate hir asystance against the Spanyards and had answere to theire contehtac'on and thosse whyche wolld go wyllingly had lycence to goe and there wennt owt of Shreusbery 20 pson' after the capte' messenger had made there p'clamac'on and toocke their p'est moneye.

Thys yeare and about this tyme God sennt a strandge sycknes in Shreusbery mutche lycke the plage but was not the plage it wolld tacke them in the headd and hartt wth a laxe eyther upwarde or downwarde and those wch should dye were trobblyd wth a cramp in their leggs soon havinge stytches in theire syde that were of contynewance and the most part of them escapid throughe good tendinge but manye dyed sodenly in a man' soom well overnyght and dead before morninge soom ij houres soom in one hour som in more soom in lesse and it fell in ev'y p't of the towne the lycke hathe not been seene it towchid pore and ryche it was properly termyd stowp gallants broother.

This yeare and the 12 daye Julii beinge moondaye by the reasoon of a thoundere bollt and lyghteninge there was an ocke ryvyd a soonder and fyeryd by Yockynttons townes ennde iiij myles from Shreusbery & mutche hurt doon in other places.

This yeare and the xxv*th* daye of Julii 1585 the Juggis of assyse cam into Shreusbery and the Shyrryffe whose name was master Barkar[1] whoe keapt hys howse at Mr. Mychaell Chambers in Salop all the tyme of hys aboade, and the same verey nyght after theire cominge fell sutche extreme tempeast of lyghteninge thoondering and rayne contynually untill v. of the clocke in the mor'ing as thoughe heve' and earthe shoulld goe togeather the lycke for the tyme hathe not ben hard throughe wch many hurtts were doon wch especially to name were soomwhat tedious but to be breeffe & generall there was no shyre cleare but eyther howses burnt, corne in the fyllds spoylyd, men & weeme' slayne, ocks and treesse torne & overthrowne & many cattell spyllt of all kynds.

This yeare the upper part of the horsefayre next adioyninge to the crosse stone wall in Franckvill where the sawe pytt was usually made was begoon to be pavyd for clenly keepinge of the sayd horsse fayre & for cleane kepinge of the sayd place

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[1] Rowland Barker, of Haghmond, grandson of John Barker and Elizabeth, sister & coh. of Sir Rowland Hill, Knt. Arms : *gu* a fesse componée *or* & *az* between 6 annulets of the second.—Blakeway's *Sheriffs.*

beinge pavyd especiall from doonge and other offalls usually layde there and pesterid wth tymber to the noyance of the inhabytance especyall and all other strangers and passingers in generall.

This yeare and the 17 daye of August master John Hosiar of Woodcot by Shrosberie beinge one of the counsell of the towne and beinge soomwhat agid and hevye gave ov' his office by hys letter sennt to the baylyffs wch was redd to the comons assemblyd the same daye in the boothe hall requestinge them to choose a nother in his place and the next daye after the reast of the counsell dyd chuse Mr. Mychaell Chambers in his place and sware hym cownsolor.

This yeare the somm' and harviest tyme was so unseasonable that husband meen could not get in their corne but mutche of it was layd flat to the grownde, and so by meanes spirtid, and whe' the reast that stood upp beinge ripe was rept, yet by the reason of contynuall shures was mutche spirtid, and in hast howsed scannt seasonid by wch unseasonablenes Rye that was beffore harvist at 15 & 1/6*d* the bushell cam to ij*s* 4*d* the bushell and all othern grayne in lycke order and rate and so lycke to coom derer.

1585-6 Rychard Owen & Rychard Dawys Baylyffs.

This yeare was chosen commen sargiant Wyllyam Jenckes draper and the other two sargiants were Edward Lloyd shoomaker and Rychard Hortoon fletcher.

It is further to be notyd that the above namyd Rychard Dawys baylyffe was soon of Mr. John Dawys the last yeare before, the lycke lott and fortu' in elect'on was not seene of any mans memorye that the father to be chosen one yeare and the soonn the next yeare after.

This yeare and the 13 of November about 7 of the clocke at nyght dyd fall sutche extreeme tempest of wynde and rayne for the space of one howre and a halfe that did mutche harme abroade for the tyme.

This yeare and about the beginninge of December in the makynge of a sawe pytt in the horesefayre in Franckwill in the towne of Shreusbery for to sawe tymber for the use of John Hyggyns baker was foonde the head and bones of a man the wch had ben buryed there tyme owt of mynde and the same hedd so taken upp aperyd a rownde hole in the same iudgid to be made wth soom pyke of pollaxe or bill and so prively murtherid and there burieed in the saundes as it was not unlycke wch remaynid a space for to be scene.

This yeare and the 6 daye of December beinge Moondaye 1585 there cam to Shreusberye 600 souldiars owt of Wales to

passe into Flanders wch were musterid by their captens the next daye followinge in the corne market there owt of the wch weare chosse' tall and able men 400, who dep'tid on Wensdaye towards London upon their iurneye.

This yeare and almost all the moonthe of Februarye the weather was so extreeme and frostye that husbandmen could not in no good tyme plowe theire grownde for rye.

This yeare and the 7 daye of Marche one John Broommall beinge a glov' dwellinge in Francvill being one of the subu'bs of the towne of Shreusberie wth his twoe men namyd Edward and Gilbart going upp the water for gorst faggotts weare all three drownid comminge downe wth the same: Brommalld hym sellffe foounde dead hanginge uppon the bancke; Edward his man foound w^th^in 3 or 4 days after and Gilbart his other man was foounde a bout a moonthe after at Rockcetter about 8 myles of by water, a verey pvtifull case and a hard fortune, wee have exsamples dayely to fere God & to serve hym howrly.

This yeare all this sayd moonthe of Marche was verey weete weather whiche causid corne to be at a great price to say Rye at xiiij grotes and yf the baylyffs of Salop and other maiestrats of good townes had not stayed the passadge by water it had been mutche dearar.

This yeare there was great deathe of sheep in most places in England and where most numbers and floxe were dyed grete nu'bers.

This yeare and the 12 of Aprill beinge Tuesdaye about 3 and 4 of the clocke in the morninge there was a sore fyer at master Richard Myttoons place in the corne market whiche burnid a newe house lately erectyd the' wth a fayre kyll to macke malte wch house was storid wth malt of Rychard Bettoon drap' whoo made the same beinge therin above a m. bushell burnt smootherid and spoylyd the cause of the fyer was this the sayd kill was put to use and fyer therin over night and so laft all night and no body in the sayd house beinge a store house and in the morni'g a stranger cominge to towne espyeed a greate flame assennd and crieed as he went to the inhabytants & so by greate helpe deffendid the howses next adioyninge yet not ended w^th^owt great losse.

This yeare and the 5 daye of Maye beinge Thursdaye dep'tid this present lyffe Sir Henry Sydney beinge Lorde President of the Marches of Wales in the cyty of Woorcester who was one of the pryvey counsell beinge a valiant knight and a woorthy and one of the knights of the most noble order of the garter. his hart was sennt to be burried at Ludlowe where his most aboade was, his bodie was not remoovid from

Woorcester until the xv*th* daye of June and that daye karieed in solemprwyse from thence towards Kennt to be there burieed acordinglye.

This yeare and the 14*th* daye of June 1586 a newe Charter wythe serte' Articles grauntid by ye Queenes M^ti^ unto the towne of Shreusberie the xx*th* daye of Aprell last past and openly redd in the guylde hall the said 14 daye of June of the wch articles I have put downe the principalls and have leaft owt the others for brevitie sacke (videlicet) Imp'mis the parishe of the Crosse and St. Giles wth Mirivall to be accompted a suburb of the towne of Salop and to be p'sell of the Stoaneward and the baylyffs of the towne of Salop to have the order gouernme't and liberties and other things in the foriate and Myrivall and they to be also contributars to all seasme'ts and obedient to the baylyffs and all others officers of the sayde towne as in other places of the towne. The court of conscience to be ev'y Thursday fortnight the baylyffs to appoynt place and to be iudges p'vidid that the cause be under 40*s* neither for no title of launde and the same court to extenndc throughe all the fraunches. The court of recorde to be holden by the baylyves ev'y Tuesdaye and to trie and determyne all causes of p'sonall act'ons, the p'ties to sue a writt owt of the Chancerie and so to trie his cause by writ of assyzes in as ample man' as any shire in England, the baylyffs at theire pleasures to take suerties of the p'ties and the writ so directid owt of the Chauncerie to commawndc the p'tie or p'ties to be before master baylyffs or one of them and the deputie of theoder wth a note of the dayc tyme and place and yf there be any cause hard before M^r^. Baylyves at the said court of record uppon the Teusdaye and as that day cannot be determinid that the same to be hard and endid on Wensday in as ample man' as yf the same had been doon on Teusdaye. And where there is nowe 9 Atorneies after the avoidance of three of them to be but vj at one tyme never hereafter, the baylyffs to chuse the atorneies and master baylyffs to sennde for at theire pleasures the towne clarke and attorneys to aske theire advise. That no inhabiter w^th^in the towne and libertie doc owe any apparance at any other court of record or at any asisses. The baylyves of the towne to take fyne and recouery and to approve wills and testame'ts at any tyme w^th^in two yeares after the decease of the p'tie so deceessid. The baylyffs have power to tacke statute marchant and the statute of Actoon Burnell in as lardge man' as in any cytie in England and the towne clarcke to recorde the same. That no shyrreffe undersherref sherreffs clarcke baylyfe of the hundred nor no other

licke p'son serve any p'cesse precept or warrant wthin the towne and liberties of the same but onely the baylyffs and other officers so y^{t} the baylyffs and theire officers be not necklygent but doe theire dueties in servinge the same. That no inhabiter paye no seassme't subsedie &c, in any place out of the liberties. The castell of the towne of Salop is gyven to the towne for ev' wth all the p'ffetts therto belonginge payinge yearely at twoe termes in the yeare to the crowne xiij*s*. 4*d*. Further also the towne hathe libertie to purchesse laundes not extendinge 100*li* by the yeare not beinge holden by knights serveis to maynetayne a preacher or otherwyse at theire pleasure and the same never to be reconnyd as consealid launds. That no officer &c enformer &c have to doe in any matter or cause wthin the sayd towne or liberties uppon payne of xx*li* p'vided that the baylyffs be not necklige't but foresee all sutche things as they shulld doe &c wth many other liberall articles and as lardge freedoomes as any cytie in England hathe to the comfortable securitie of the inhabitannts who are dayly bounde to pray for the longe lyffe and p'sperous rainge of hir M^{ties} most gracious p'son Amen.

This yeare in the moonthes of June and Julii corne grewe to be verey deare in most places in Englaund and especially in the weast and northe countreis and namely in the towne of Salop wheate was at 8*s*. 8*d*. the bushell and rye at vj*s*. the bushell so that the queenes maiestie causyd in all places wthin the realme that the iusteces in ev'y p'syncke should cause corne masters to bringe theire corne to marketts that hyr poore subiects shoull not waunt for theire money.

This yeare and in this moonthe of Julii all kynde of corne was at an excessyve price in the towne of Shrewsbery to saye Rye at 8*s*. the bushell wheate at ix*s*. and barly at 4*s*. 6d. and upwards but the carefull zeale of master James Barker in consciderac'on of the poore inhabytants brought from forren places one hundred strycke of Rye and selld the same in ye market to the poore after the rate of v*s*. the bushell and so brought down the price, as also further the baylyffs Aldermen comme' counsell of the towne and others of the towne have p'vidid store to ease the suspectid want that were licke to ensue the Lord blesse them for theire mercyfull care and sennd plentie Amen.

This yeare and the 8 daye of Septe'ber beinge Thursdaye the scollars of the free scoole in Shreusberie made a triumphe in warlicke man' in a feeld there callyd behind the Wales against the popes army and other rebells whom they triomphantly vanquished to the greate reioysinge of the beholders

departinge from the filld throughe the towne victoriously towards the castell there beinge over the towne where they wth soownde of trompet dromme and shoutes sownded owt theire victery wth greate fyers made and thanckfull psalmes most joyfully soonge to God in the comfortable hearinge of all the towne wth ioyfull and harty thancksgyuinge.

This yeare and the 28 day of September beinge Mi'helmas even throughe the extreeme tempests of wynde and rayne longe tyme before the Severne water passinge by Shreusberie did arise soddenly in the night unlookid or greatly suspected of sutche a hudge height that the lycke was nev' seene of raine water of any man's memorie lyvinge wch did mutche hurt in howses barnes and stables not only in the sayd towne but also in other places and especially to be notid a whole myxen cam downe the water wheron were dyv's swyne walkinge upp and downe the sayd mixe' upon Mi'helmas daye and so passinge more the' a myle to the miraculous sight of the people and at leangthe whe' the sayd mixe' brake a soonder the swyne were drownid before they were savid.

1586-7 Thomas Sherar and David Lloyde Baylyffs.

This yeare were chosen commyn sergiant George Benyon and the other twoe sargiants were John Smythe Shoomaker and Rychard Hardinge sherma'.

This yeare and the beginninge of these baylyffs tymes were chossen burgesis of the p'lime't for the towne of Shreusbery Mr. Thomas Harrys lawiar and master Charles[1] Scryven gentill.

This yeare and the 16 daye of November 1586 one Goodales howse at Cottoon hill by Shreusberie was burnt wth his backside whiche cam throughe the mischance and neckligence of the wyfe of the house, after shee had boucked serten clothes lafte the fier in one ende of the chymney and so throughe a broken hole caught amongist fearne and other light fuell in sutche sort that the fier cam owt of the house topp beinge thatched before shee was warr therof beinge washinge at the watersyde but a lytill of and yf great helpe had not coom owt of the towne and the soodden turninge of the Wynde wthall the neyghboors howses and barnes there about had been cleane burnt also, wch were by Gods goodness and theire dilligent helps savid.

This yeare and the 24 day of November departid this present lyffe master Rychard Purcell of Salop alderma' beinge a woorthie gentill' of a lovinge and gentill nature being a

[1] O. & B, say Reginald.

liberall releev^{r} of the poore and at all tymes the poore man's frinde and the next daye following the baylyffs and the counsell of the towne mett and elected ij aldermen, one in the place of Mr. Sturrie who gave ov' his clocke beinge alderma' and another in the place of master Purcell, whose names were Mr. Richard Owen the elder and master Thomas Chorlt'n beinge before counsellors and in their places electid master Rychard Dawes drap' and master John Davies gentill' in the electon of whom dyd aryse greate grudge.

This yeare and about the 4 daye of December cam strange newes to Shreusbery from Calabria upon the sight of a starr there seene for the yeares followinge to say for the yeare 87 then when the moon ys in the watery sings the world ys lyck to be in grete danger the soon shall be couerid wth a dragon, and thereby in danger this yeare of many accidences as for brevitie sacke I omyt onely puttinge downe these breefe verses conserning those troblesoom yeares and tymes p'nuncicatid as ensuethe

He wch had no mischance in A° 85
and in A° 86 dothe remayne alyve
Hee beinge in A° 87 unhurt & unslayne
and in A° 88 alyve dothe remayne
And lyvinge untill the yeare 89
he may then specke of a ioyfull tyme.

This yeare and the 8 daye of December 1586 beinge betwixt 5 and 6 of the clocke in the morninge cam soddenly from the south west sutche an extreeme and ferefull storme wth thoonder and lighteninge that shakid for the tyme howses and soom ov'throwen wch ov'threwe a wyndmill by Cardoogas Crosse by Shrosbery wth overthrowinge of teynters and other harme doone the Lorde staye his wrathefull haund from us and gyve us all grace to amend.

This yeare and the 17 day of December the Shereffe p'claymid in Salop the queene of Scotts traitor beinge trieed by examiac'on to be in confederacy wth the formar conspirators as Babingtoon and his associates for conspiringe hir maiesties deathe who weare executid, and the sayd traitor the Scottish queene hathe iudgme't to dye and for ioye therof the baylyffs and aldermen caused bonyfiers and bell ringins wth assemblinge them selves in theire beast araye in banquetinge and reioysing the same praysinge God wth triumph and sownde of trumpet.

This yeare a bout the begyninge of February to say at night the moone passid wth a greate syrcle about hir contynewinge still wth the same syrcle shee shininge bright throughe the same where as at all other tymes before the clouds in passinge over the same wold obscure.

This yeare Henry Earle of Pembrooke was creatyd Lord President of the Marches of Wales in the place of his father in lawe Sir Henry Sydneye late disseasyd who was a valiaunt and a woorthy knyght.

This yeare and these baylyffs tymes in the moonthe of Aprell Sir Thomas Bromley[1] beinge Lord Chaunsellor of England dysceassyd who was a greate frynde and a pryncypall iuell to Shropshyre who contynued in the sayd office but 8 yeares iust for he was creatyd in Ap'll 1579 & dep'tyd in Aprell 1587.

This yeare the Earle of Pembrooke and lorde President of the Marches of Wales cam into Shreusberie the 26 daye of Aprell and the 27 day following, musterid in Styrrys Close[2] all the countrey bothe of horseme' and footemen and the 28 day of Ap'll his honor musterid the townes men bothe of horsemen and footemen and the 29 daye of Ap'll dep'tyd and before his dep'ture his honor dyd tacke order for the agreement of the Aldermen and counsellors of the saide towne of Shreusberie amongst whom was greate controv'sie and mutche money speant and beinge so agreid they displacid serten Aldermen and counsellars that were not inhabitants wthin the said towne and placyd others in theire rowmes that were continuall resiants accordinge to their booke upon wch agrem'et for ioye therof there was bothe bancketinge and ringinge of bells to the greate reioysinge of the commons.

This yeare and the third of May Sir Christopher Hatton[3] was creatid Lord Chancellor of England.

This yeare and aboute this tyme the christening font in Sainct Chades churche was take' downe beinge of stone & broken & another of wood placid unto the quier.

This yeare and the 12th of May in the after noone one Margaret Reece the wyffe of Humfrey Reece of Salop baker willfully drownid hirselffe in takinge two of hir childre' wth hir myndinge to drownde them also and dyd cast them in the water before hir and shee leappinge after uppon them but as God wold have it a neighbor beinge not far of heringe the children crie before they were cast in the water & seinge the myschance stippid soddenly into the water up to hir breasts

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[1] His superb monument with effigies is on the north side of the Chancel of Wroxeter Church.

[2] Now called Belmont.

[3] The Hatton family inhabited a large black-and-white timber house near Lord Hill's Column in the Abbey Foregate, long since taken down.

and wth mutche a doe savid the children but the moother of them was drownid, a pytyfull hearinge the Lorde have mercy upon us and guyde us wth his grace amen.

This yeare and in the moonthe of Julii a strange sickness namyd the burninge Agewe raignid all England ov' and especially at this tyme in the towne of Shreusberie of the wch there discessid at the begynninge many of the woorthiest occupiars and p'perist p'soonns leavinge greate chardge of childre' behynde them.

This yeare was in England a very quicke and tymely harvest for before bartlomewe day the most part of corne was karieed into barnes the wch tymelye harvist and the aboondant plenty therof causid wheate and rye beinge before harvist in the towne of Shreusberie at xis and ixs the bushell to fall to 3s 8*d* and iijs the bushell and under wch God be praysesid was a coomfortable hearinge.

This yeare and in the moonthe of September to say the iiij*th* daye the greate assise was kept in Shreusberie wch was woont to be kept in the moonthe of Augoost but becausse of the syckenes did rainge abroade in all p'tes it was put of untill the coldnes of the yeare as aforesayde Mr. Needam[1] beinge head Shirreff who cam in wth a goodly trayne.

1587-8 Geordge Hyggyns & Wyllyam Joanes Baylyffs.

This yeare was chosen commen sergiant Hughe Benyon, and the other two sergiants were Rychard Harrys and Ellys Keffyn draper.

This yeare and the last daye of November beinge Sainct Andrews day in the night the prison's of the castell gate in Shreusberie to say of the Shireffs chardge brak out of prison of the wch twoe of them escapid the reast were p'ventid, they had found the means to ease them selves of their irons and they had not been espieed they had escapid all and had put the geyler to greate trobble.

This yeare and the xxiij*th* daye of December beinge Saturday Severn water did ryse at Shreusberie by the reasoon of greate raine in Wales of sutche great height that it cam in many of the houses in Franckvill beinge the west suburbs of the same towne and contynewed untill the xxv*th* daye to say Christmas day in wch tyme the inhabitans there were fayne to assende up to their chambers and sustaynyd greate losse thereby, also the sayd water to say the sayde Severn did rise

[1] Blakeway gives Francis Newport of High Ercall, afterwards Sir Francis as sheriff in 1586. There are two views of High Ercall Castle in Mrs. S. Acton's *Garrisons*, p. 44.

agayne the xxix*th* daye beinge Frydaye at night but not so highe as the first water by halfe a yarde plombe, wch vanished away soon' wthout greate harme, so that in one weeke, the sayde Severn water hathe not been seene to ryse so sooddenly togeather beinge no great weather to force the same neyther no snowe in Wales wch uppon sooden thawe hathe causid greate floods to coom.

This yeare and the ix*th* daye of January beinge Tuesday at night one Jane Ryton a mayde servant of Jucks wyffe of Franckvill tanner dyd wylfully drowne hir sellffe.

This yeare and the 20 daye of Januarie 1587 the christeninge foant in Sainct Chadds churche in Shreusberie was placid againe in stone in his olde and usuall place in the enteringe in of the churche for that the most parte of the parishon's did grudge against the remoovinge of the same to the quier or chancell.

This yeare and in the moonthe of Februarie there was a p'clamac'on conserninge the inordinate wearinge of apparell and an order of all estates what should be worne and usid and penalties p'sc'ibid for the offenders for not obser'inge the same.

The yeare and the xxj*th* of Marche beinge Thursday the iudges of assises cam to Shreusberie brought in by the Shyrreffe Mr. Edward Leighton esquier who had a woorthie company of men and well horsed the sysses continued from Thursday untill Saturday night unto the wch cam sutche a boundans of people that the lycke hathe not been seene by the reasoon of the apparance owt of Wales S^{r}. Edward Harbert knight beinge playntyfe and John Owen Vaghan esquire and Howell Vagha' deffendants whoe had matters the' and there to bee trieed.

This yeare and the xxv*th* daye of Marche beinge Moondaye and in the after noone of the same daye the prisoners were executed at the Olde Heathe amongst whom one Rychard Illedge beinge a towne prisoner and a towne borne childe was by the request of the sayde prysoner committed from the baylyffs to be tried befor the iudges of the sayde assises whoe made sutche a godly ennde that it gretly comforted the audience who were innumerable for the lycke company in that place hathe not ben seene.

This yeare and the xiij*th* daye of July was published in the towne of Shreusberie a p'clamac'on from the Queenes maiestie beringe date at Grenwiche the first of July of and conscerninge a malicious and detestable Bull or libell publisheed and sett furthe of late by Sextus the fifte nowe Pope of Roome against hir maiestie and hir most gracious and peaceable government wth other trayterous libells boocks and pamplettes lately also

contrivid written and printed by dy'vs sedicious and traytorous personns goinge a boute wth most false and abhominable lyes to sclaunder and dishonor hir maiestie whom God longe preserve and confounde all hir enimies Amen.

This yeare and the 18 day of Julye the iudges of the assise cam into Shreusbery at xj of the clocke before noone accompanied wth the Shyrreffe beinge master Edward Leightoon and the woorshipfull of the shire and theire traynes in worshipfull man'er, there was but smale apparance and fewe matters to fynishe, for that they enndid all the 20 daye beinge Satturnday in the foore noone of the same daye.

And it is to be notid that the xix*th* daye beinge Friday and in the midds of the assise one Richard Reynollds of Bageley by Cockeshoot in the countie of Salop yoman was put uppon the pillorie in Shreusbery by the appointment of the privey counsell and had bothe his eares cutt of by Richard Stubbs then apointed by the bayliffs of the towne execucion', his offence was this he wickidly burnid a shipp coate of one Hanmer his brother in lawe wherin were nyne score sheepe and a geldinge and serten goates wch were all burnid savinge a fewe sheepe whiche escapid but yeatt the wolls of them singid to the skynn.

This yeare and the 19 daye of September beinge Tuesdaye and two dayes after the festivall daye of the coronac'on of the Queenes maiestie and the sayde daye fallinge uppon S Elizabethes daye was a solempn daye in Shrousberie and all people that daye keapt it holly unto the Lorde that had gyve' hir m^{tie} sutche victorie and blessid ov'throwe of the Spanishe power and hudge navy of hir enimies to the greate reioisinge of all England. God be praysid Ame'

1588-9 John Pearche & Nicholas Gybbons Baylyffs.

This yeare were chosen sergiaunts Phellip Wildinge common sergiaunt and the two other sergiaunts were William Barnes and Robart Smithe the yonger all three free wth the Shoomakers and it is to be notid that before the sayd Rob't Smithe was swoorne officer to Mr. Baylyf Pearche there weare alligac'on' put in against hym because he wore master Luson's liverey and ought not to be weringe any gentilma's lyverey for affect'on sacke acordinge to the boocke so he was put of for a tyme and the skanninge thereof put to lernid men but at the lengthe he was R^{d} and sworne.

This yeare and the 19 daye of October beinge Saturday were electid in the Guylde hall in Salop two burgises of the p'liment for the sayde towne to say Mr. Reynolde Skryven and master Andrew Newport to deale for ye towne.

This yeare and the iiij*th* daye of November there were sennt owt of Shropshire tow^{ds} Ireland 100 souldiars after the vewe taken of them in Shreusberie of Mr. Edward Leighton beinge Shiriffe of the sayde shire to assist the countrey there conserninge a serte' number of Spaniards wch beinge wynde dreeven uppon the northe cost of Irelaunde and there beinge forsyd to launde incampinge them selves but the saide men wennt no further then Cheaster but returnid whom agayne for there cam certificate from Irelaund that they were soone vanquished and fleed awaye.

There is to be remembrid the unseasonableness of the weather this yeare to saye from Maye daye to the myds of November there hathe been sutche foule weather that mutche hey in the harvist and after was lost and especially in lowe countres beinge rottoon and karried away withe waters and mutche corne tacken in not well seasonid and weare fayne for the most p't to kepe their rie grownd for barly whiche causid all grayne somwhat to rise in price, to say, whete a bove 5*s*. the bushell and rye at 3*s*. the least.

This yeare and the 7*th* daye of November beinge Thursdaye and the countie daye were chosen in the castill of Shreusberie by the body of the shire 2 knights of the parlime't whiche were to saye Sir Water Lusoon and master Richard Lusoon his soonn and heire.

This yeare and the 7*th* daye of Januarii 1588 beinge the quarter sessions for the Shire usually keapt in Shreusberie the Tuesday after xij*th* daye there had licke to have been greate hurt doon throughe the blowinge of a troompett by master Frances Newpards troompetar over against master David Lloyds howse in whose howse was one master Owen Vaugha' & his meen beinge a stoute gentil' betweene whom was an ollde grudge, the wch troompetoor beinge founde faullt wthall drewe out his swoorde to stricke at the p'tie and therupon theoder hys fellows drewe and the bayliffes beinge in the hall cam amongist them to keepe peace were not regardid uppon the same the common bell was ronge the' the townes men assisted the baylyffs and the' they were forcid to put upp their weapons wth halfe a doss'n broke' pates and all this broile the sayd Mr. Owen Vagha' and all his men keapt the howse and by counsell storred not wch yf he and his men had coom furthe there had been a bloddie daye but God be thanckid it was for that tyme pacificed.

This yeare and the 22 of Januarii beinge Wensday and in the night the prissoners of the castell geole in Shreusberie foonde meanes to unfasten their bolltes and lynckes and were

at libertie in the prison who had pullyd downe sertene stone of the wall towards the scoole house to have gott'n owt but coulde not passe by reason the yearthe that way was far above the breache the wch yf they had made it on the other syde wch they durst not for awakinge the geylor and other people they had gon furthe so at the last wth their bustelinge & noise the geylors men callid upp the geilor who p'seivinge the' to have the boltes in their hands to brayne the' wch had first com in wennt to the baylyffs for assistance who sennt thider certe' men weeponid and so forsyd them all to yealde to peace and were all putto shurer hollde and so keapt till the nexe greate assise.

This yeare in the moonthe of Maye and June was soom contrav'sie in the towne of Salop about the settinge upp of maye poales and bonyfiers mackinge, and erection of tresse before the Shearmans haule and other places the wch one Mr. Tomkys[1] publicke prechar there did preche against and the saide p'char beinge presennt at the perswadinge reformac'on was there thretenid and pushid at by certe' lewde p'soonns but in the ennde it was reformid by the baylyffs.

This yeare and about this tyme the bishopps ordinarie cam to Shreusburie to se reformac'on in churches of soondrie faults contrarie to the queenes m^ts^ inionct'ns who gave commandme't amongst other matt' that the ministers in sainge of devine serveis shulld were their surpluces acording to the queenes inioonct's but whe' he departid the most part of them did not observe the same but do staunde to the danger of the lawe & extremitie therof.

This yeare and at the ennde of harvist Rye provid very light and thyn in most places of Englaund and they whiche sowed rie at the fyrst were fayne to sowe barly agayne in the same place, so that barly was exceedinge good and plentifull and at 2*s.* 6*d.* 2*s.* 4*d.* and at 2*s.* the bushell, whiche causid rie to keepe at iiij*s.* the bushell because the people put mutche barly wth rie to macke breadd yee and many made bredd of cleane barly and good bredd too, for barly was so fayre and so plentifull this yeare whiche yf it had chauncid otherwysse rye had benn at an unreasonable price at the least at vij*s.* or viij*s.* the bushell, and by that helpe wheate at v*s.*

This yeare and the seconnde day of October beinge Thursday and the daye before the ellect'n of the bayliffs of the towne of Salop there was assembly of the commons at the guldhall

[1] Rev. John Tomkys, M.A., minister of St. Mary's. "1592 June 24 Mr. John Tomkis, public Preacher buried."—*St. Mary's Register.*

there to heare and consennt to the mackynge of freeme', and amongst other matt' this one is especially to be notedd that Mr. John Okell gentyl' and one of the counsell of the towne and as it may appeere hathe borne the office of the towne, did promes ope'ly the same day before all the assembly that yf he may be sparid from the office of baylywicke as longe as he lyvid at his deathe he wolde free the stone gate for painge any toll for ev' and purchase somutche launds to furnyshe the same to the whiche the commons & all agreid unto so the same ys put downe and confirmyd, whiche woorthie act is and wille not only a perpetuall commendac'on to hym but a further p'vocacon to others to sturre the' to be myndefull of well doinge towards the p'ffet of ye towne.

This yeare and on the elect'on daye were pullid owt of the bagge by the baylyffes Richard Chirwell and Mr. Edward Owen who callyd the 25 p'soonns, to make the baylyffs and other officers the wch 25 p'soons went into the elect'on house at 3 of the clocke in the after noone and cam not owt before 7 of the clocke on Saterday at night the only staye was for that they coulld not agree uppon the common sergiaunts.

1589-90 Thomas Lewys & John Davies Baylyffes.

This yeare was chosen common sergiant William Jenckes and the other two sergiants were Robart Ball and Richard Harris taylor.

This yeare and aboute the myds of October was take' a monsterous fyshe callid a Sturgion at the next weare benethe Bridgnorthe she was a bout a yarde broade in the backe and 3 yards in lengthe whiche was sennt to the counsell for a presennt.

This yeare and the 29 daye of October A° 1589 one Sir Rychard Shatelworth[1] wth the Ladie his wyfe cam to Shreusberie, beinge Justes electyd for the counsell in the Marches of Wales who were woorthely r^d and an orac'on made unto hym before my Lord's Place and so brought to master Sherar's howse where he purposethe to remayne.

This yeare and the xx*th* daye of January Syvern water at Shreusbery did rise a bove a foote height in soom of the inhabitants howses in Francvill beinge the west suburbes of the sayde towne of wch was unlookyd for of all the inhabitants whiche did contynewe but a short space to say wennt downe againe the next daye at night.

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[1] Son of Hugh Shuttleworth, Esq., of Gawthorp, co. Lancaster, chief justice of Chester died 1599, s. p.

This yeare and in the moonthe of February there went owt of this towne and shire a hundreed sowldiars toward Ireland to keepe and defennde the garrisons there who tocke shippinge at Bristowe.

This yeare and the 27 day of Marche 1590 beinge Fryday was a man and a wooman[1] executid at Knockin Heathe beyond Nesclyf in Wales beinge in the county of Salop for murtheringe a childe of the adge of 5 yeares to say for his laundes being an heir of v*li* a yeare or thereabouts whiche fell after the sayd childes dethe yf he had dieed w^th^out issue to his uncles beinge three of them wch uncles p'curid and imagenid the deathe of the saide childe ev' sence his byrthe the three uncles were executid at Bridgnorthe sysses beinge holde' the xix*th* of Marche last one of his uncles was pressid to deathe there and the other two hangid there at Bridnorthe also, from whence the saide wooma' beinge grand moother to the chillde and the sayd man whose name was Gefferey Elkes beinge hirid to doe the deede cam to be executid in the saide heathe where the deede was the wooma' beinge hangid there was cutt downe and burieedd and the saide Elks hangithe in chaynes for a memoriall and an exsample to others. At his deathe the sayde Elks confessid that he did not the deede but brought a payle of water to the heathe and leaft his uncle that was pressid to deathe to doe the deede, and before the deede was doon and after two Ravins usually wold meete hym the saide Elks wolld followe hym and krye a bout hym and whe' he escapid and hidd hym selfe the saide Ravins did crie and flyed about the place and discried hym owt and so was founnde in a cocke of hey by their meanes, wch the sayd verely was the iust iudgme't of God. so he warnid all peeple present (beinge there of all p'ts an infinite number) to tacke heed of pryvey murther for the fowles of the aire will discrie them, as it well p'vyd by hym sellffe.

This yeare and the 17*th* daye of Aprill there went a hundred souldiars owt of Salop and the shire who went towards Ireland and toocke shippinge at Cheaster.

This yeare and the 4*th* of Maii there was a yonge scollar beinge about xij or throthene yeares owld beinge burdid at master Hamons in Salop hangid hym sellffe in the chamber where he did lye beinge a Walshe boye whose name was Reece ap John beinge an idle boy & hatid the scoole.

This yeare and the 26 daye of Maye one Reynold Powell carpenter was murtherid in Salop in placinge a peece of

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[1] See Gough's *Hist. of Middle* (ed. 1875), p. 71 and 72.

tymber at the repayringe of a housse a lyttel benethe the gullet ap'tainingne to master Richard Owe' senior drap'.

This yeare and the 19*th* daye of June one John Broome the soon of Thomas Broome of Mynsterley comming to the towne wth a loade of poales was sooddenly murtherid by the over waltinge of hys wayne wthin a myle of the towne of Salop.

This yeare and the 5*th* of Julii a man of Thomas Joanes of Salop, shoomaker callid Hughe Morris a Walshe boye was drownid under on of the arches of the Walshe bridge in Salop the same daye after eveninge prayer beinge a Sonday in bathinge of hym sellffe.

This yeare and the vij*th* of Julii one John Lewis a prenteise of Richard Fallows of Salop sherman was soodenly take' and foounde dead yet comminge to hym sellfe in tyme was p'tley recoverid yet remaynethe speecheless and verey sicke and weacke.

This yeare and the xxiiij*th* day of July there was a scaffold put up in the cornem'kt in Salop upon the wch an Hongaria' and other of the queenes m^{ts} players and tumblars usid and excersisid them selves in sutche man' of tumblynge and turninge as the' the licke was never seene in Shrewsberie before that is to saye in this maner they wold turne them selves twise bothe backward and forwarde wthout towchinge any grownde in lightinge or fallinge upon theire feete som of them also wold apeare in a bagge upright in the same beinge tieed fast at the mowthe above his head and wold beinge in the sayde bagge turne bothe foreward and backward wthout towchinge any grownde in falling upright uppon his feete in the sayde bagge marvelous to the beholders. Also a litill from the sayde stadge there was a gable roape tighted and drawen strayte uppon poales erectid against master Purser's place in the sayde corne market upon the wch roape the sayde Hongaria' did assende and goe uppon wth his bare feete havinge a longe poole in his hanndes over his headd and wold fall stridlongs uppon the sayd roape and mowntinge up againe upon the same wth hys feete verey myraculous to the beholders at soondrie tymes and in soondrie man's. Also uppon the topp of the same roape goinge streight from bothe the sloapes he went to & fro the same in dauusinge and turninge hym sellffe wth holdinge still his saide poale wch wayed above xxxviij*li* weight and also he put on two broade shues of copper upon hys feete not towching the' wth hys hands and went upright upon the saide roape never swarvinge on no syde in woonderful maner and after he had put downe the poale he shewyd woonderfull feates and knacks in fallinge his head and hands

downewards and hangid at the roape by his feete and assendid up agayne and after that hangid by his handes and all his feate & body downewards and turnid his body backward & forward betwixt his hands & the rope as nymbell as yf it had been an eele in sutche woonderfull maner that the licke was nev' seene of the inhabitants there before that tyme.

This yeare and the xiij*th* daye of August beinge Thursday A° Dm' 1590 the Judgs of the greate assise cam to Salop and keapt there the assises for the space of 3 daies and so the sayde iudgis dep'ted againe uppon Soonday followinge and uppon Moonday after in the forenoone sutche prison's as were condemnid had their execuc'on, Mr. Andrewe Chorlt'n beinge Sherref.

1590-1 Thomas Sherar and Thomas Burnell Balyvs.

This yeare was made common sargiant Edward Lloid shoomaker and the other two sargiants were Thomas Coomiy taylor beinge sargiant to master Baylyve Sherar and Thomas Evans taylor beinge sa'giant to master Baylyve Burnell.

This yeare the counsell of the Marches of Wales keapt Michelmas tearms in Shreusburie wch began in the beginninge of November by the meanes of master Justes Shatelwoorthe wheare the seale remaynid untill the weeke before Christmas because they were unserten either to goe or tarrie untill they hard from Loondon to wch place ye towne of Salop sennt Mr. Roger Evans to be a sutor to have the counsell to remaine still for the helpinge forward the reparac'on of a ruynous castell there to be repayrid and buildid herafter to be a place bothe to reseve the counsell as also a convenie't place for the prisoners of the shire.

This yeare and the . . . daye of December was by the apointment of the counsell a man put uppon the pillorie in Shrosberie for pi'urie provid upon hym whose name was . . . . . .

This yeare and the viij*th* daye of February beinge Monday in the morninge one Humfrey Smythe alias Sadlar dwellinge under the Willde Copp an old man hangid hym selfe in a coke loft w^th^in his owne howse beinge well able to lyve.

This yeare and the xxvj*th* daye of February was the towne sessions of Salop where there were no pryson's condempnyd but were foonde under the value.

This yeare by the meanes of the hardnes of wynter and drynes wth all causid hey & fodder to be verey deere and causeed many cattell to perrishe for waunt, as also the wether fell unkyndly at X'ras and after X'ras to sutche snowe and rayne that made the water uppon a soodde' thawe to ryse

somwhat highe that the lycke wat' was never seene in the ennde of M'che before contrarie to kynde that the people could not in tyme fallowe their barly grownde and by reasoon of the frost wth all and hard weather causid the gresse springe soo'what late and killid almost all hearbes in gardeines and other placs so that husbandme' were fayne to sowe theire barly presently after in Aprell uppon the fyrst turninge aft^{r} the ploughe and the garde' to be sowidd in Ap'll for want of seasonable weather.

This yeare and the first day of May about v. of the clocke in the afternoone of the same daye their fell a terrible thoonder wth lighteinge and tempest wch lasted not verey longe the thoonder bolt therof did kyll upon Leat'n Shelffe by the towne of Shreusberie one Geordge Maninge shomaker comminge wth his brother Richard Maninge of Salop taylor from Oswestaries fayre the saide Geordge killid owt right and bothe theire horses but the sayd Richard Maninge was astonied but escapid a lyve savinge that he was a massid a day or two after who reported that there was at the tyme sutche a steanche and greate heate in the same place by the reason of the longe continewance of lighteninge after the thonder past that the saide place remaynid three dayes in greate heate and stinckinge smell whiche sodden chanses is an exsample for others to serve God at all tymes not knowinge at what tyme or where or howe he will stricke us for o^{r} synns.

This yeare and the 28*th* day of Maii one Mr. Thyn esquire by the assistance of the Shireff of Shropshire beinge the Mr. Hoptu' assaultyd the castell of Cause[1] belonginge unto the Lord Harry Stafford to whom the sayde Mr. Thin had bought longe agoe and had recovirid the same by lawe but could never gett possession and was wthstood by the Ladie Stafford and serte' of hir men beinge at that instant within the sayde castell the Lorde Stafford hym sellffe beinge from whoame but at the lengthe the sayd Thin by the helpe of the Sheereff entrid p' force and expullsid the sayde Lady wth smale hurt doon.

This yeare and the 6 day of June beinge Soondaye and the festivall day of the company of the Shermen of Salop aboute the settinge upp of a greene tree by serte yonge me' of the

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[1] The Earl of Stafford inherited Cause Castle and estates from the Corbets. William Hopton of Rockall and Chirbury was sheriff. Arms: *gu* semée of cross crosslets, a lion rampant *or*. There is a view of Cause Castle in Mrs. Stackhouse Acton's *Garrisons of Shropshire*, p. 40.

saide company before their hall doore as of many yeares before have ben acostomid but preachid against by the publicke precher there and commawndid by the baylyffs that non sutche shoulde be usid and for the disobedience therein theye were put in prison and a privey sessions called and there also indictid and still remayne untill the next towne sessions for further triall as hear after may apeere.

This yeare and the 17 day of Julii beinge Saturday in the night the most part of Shyffnall[1] was burnid withe fier by mischance of a mayde s'vant at night wth a candle where flax did lye in the wch the snoffe of the said candle fell in unknowe' to hir and so kindlinge in the night by an extreme tempest scatterid the fyre a broade the towne in a woonderfull sort that the sayd fier leapt to the churche there beinge a pretie space from any house and burnyd the same and burnid and meltid the bells therin and laft nothinge unburnyd savinge the stoane woorke therof and the sayd fier was so veheme't that wythe the sodde' fright therof beinge in the night and the people makinge all the speede they coulld to save their goods as a sort of men soddenly amasid made smale speede to save their neighbors howses but suffringe the same uppon suche extremitie that it was past healp so that not wthstandinge comminge and chaunsinge in the night ev'y p'soon beinge in bedd yet were there non buried, thanks be to God.

This yeare and the 19*th* daye of August Sir Edward Leight'n knight wth other Justices of the Shire did muster at Shreusberie for the towne and shire ye number of 200 souldiars prickid and apointid to apeare at an howres warninge upon payne of deathe.

This yeare and the 22 of August beinge Soondaye the bayliffs then beinge of the Bishops Castell xij miles from

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[1] This fire was described in a book, at present known only by its title in Ames's *Typography* (Herbert's ed.), p. 1371. "The lament able ruines of the Towne of Shiffnall, alias Idsall, in Shropshire, by Fire; with the most rare and wonderfull burnyng of the Parish Church standinge on the other side of a water; and the miraculous preservation of certaine Houses which stood close by the said Church, set forth by Edward Mullard, Parson of Idsall, alias Vicar. Printed by John Danter. Lond. 1591. 4°." Mullard was Vicar 1567-1598. There is also in existence a Brief dated 1592, which states that "32 houses with their goods and household stuffe were consumed & the Parish Church together with the Chancell and steeple with six Bells in the same utterly consumed and molten."—*Trans.* Shropsh. Arch. Soc., vol. I., p. 449.

Shresbery sennt sertificats to the curates and preachers in the towne of Shreusberie and ells where to the churches about that all people shulld have knowladge that theire fayre day beinge the 29 of August and fallinge upon the Soonday that in considerac'on of the will of God to keepe holly the sabothe daye and because y^{t} daye shulld be keapt holly that the shulld not repayre thyder as that day but uppon the Monday followinge beinge the 30 daye of August and the' the fayre there to be keapt and nott to losse their labor the wch is a godly exsample and to be followid in all places and truly God will blesse us all in so doinge grant it so to be good Lord amen.

This yeare and the 23*th* daye of August A^{o} p'd was the towne sessions and thosse prisoners that were, were savid under the value & by their boocke also thosse youthes whyche weare indictid about the erectinge of the Sherman's tree and uppon their submission there the' were quit for their disobedience and for all matters and the matter therin to be endid by Mr. Sergia't Owen who determinid the matt' the' the usuall tree shulld be usyd as heretofore have be' so it be don syvely and in lovinge order wthout contenc'on.

This yeare at the 16. 17. & 18 daye of Septe'ber the greate assise was keapt at Shrewsbery at wch assisse were above 60 prisons' of the wch were 21 condempnid ten of those had their boocke and one wooma' begged by the gentilweeme' of the towne and 9 suffreed to say 8 of them suffred at the old heathe and the other whosse name was Edward Juson whoe did murther a yonge youethe beinge apprentise wth one Mathewe Styntoon tan'er of Wellinget'n under the Wrekin where he was hangid in chaynes and there shall hange for exsample, he had murtherid the saide youthe a boute May day last and was not foounde longe after and that was by the chance of serte' mayds in gatheringe of straweberies foounde hym and uppon the fynding of hym the sayd Edward Juson beinge servant in the same house wth hym roon away and therby suspectyd pursuid & take'. Mr. Willia' Hopton Esq' Shereffe.

This yeare and against the assise tyme on master Bancks[1] a Staffordshire gentil' brought into this towne of Salop a white horsse which wolld doe woonderfull and strangd things as

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[1] Banckes and his "dancing horse" are alluded to by Shakspeare in *Love's Labour Lost*, Act 1, sc. 2, and by many writers contemporary with Shakspeare. Thus Ben Jonson, in *Every Man Out of his Humour*:—"He keeps more ado with this monster, than ever

thesse wold in a company or pres tell howe many peeces of money by hys foote were in a man's purce also yf the' ptie his master wolld name any man beinge hyd nev' so secret in the company wold fatche hym owt wth his mowthe either nami'g hym the veriest knave in the company or what cullerid coate he hadd, he pronowncid further to his horse and said Sir ha there be two baylyves in this towne the one of them bid mee welcom into the towne and usid me in frindly man' I wold have the goe to hym and gyve hym thanks for mee and he wold goe truly to the right baylyf that did so use hys sayd M^r^ as he did in the sight of a number of people unto master baylyffe Sherar and bowyd unto hym in makinge curchey wth hys foote in sutche man' as he coullde withe sutche strange feates for sutche a beast to doe that many people iudgid that it were impossible to be don except he had a famylar or don by the arte of magicke.

1591-2 Rychard ap Powell and Edward Irelande Baylyffs.

This yeare was chosen common sergiant Francis Betton shoomaker and the other two sergiants were Hughe Benion wever sergia't to master Baylyfe Powell and Richard Hortu' fletcher sergia't to master Baylyff Ireland.

This yeare and the xiij*th* daye of October one Roger Wilsoon of Salop sherma' was burieed who drownid hym sellfe about mi'helmas last and could not be hard of untill nowe whoe was able to lyve and was of a reasonable welthe whoe was a quiet man and lyvid quietly the Lorde gyve all people grace dayly to call uppon hym to gyde us at all tymes. Amen.

This yeare and the 24 of Januarie 1591 there was in the parrishe of Awburburie in the countie of Salop a swarme of beese cam owt of an hyve there the sayd daye and beinge hyvid in good order and lyckid well the whyche was verey strandge

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Bankes did with his horse." And again in Thos. Bastard's *Chrestoloros*, 1598, lib. 3, ep. 17 :—

> " Bankes hath a horse of wondrous qualitie,
> For he can fight, and pisse, and dance, and lie,
> And find your purse, and tell what coyne ye have,
> But Bankes who taught your horse to smell a knave ?"

In 1595 a pamphlet was published " Maroccus Extaticus, or Banckes's Bay Horse in a Trance : A Discourse set downe in a merry Dialogue between Bankes and his Beast ; anatomizing some Abuses and bad Trickes of this Age," 4to, prefixed to which was a print of the horse standinge on his hind legs with a stick in his mouth, his master with a stick in his hand, and a pair of dice on the ground. A facsimile of this print is given in Malone's edition of Shakspeare. PoorBankes and his horse were burnt at Rome as magicians.

in that tyme of yeare never seene or hard of to any mans memorie.

This yeare and the 28*th* day of Nove'ber 1591 was master Rychard Myttoon Esquire callyd the gentill master Myttoon and Alderma' of Salop who had ben 6 tymes baylyf of the towne in his tyme & was solemnly burieed the 28*th* day of November 1591 beinge about a C yeares olde.

This yeare and the 13*th* daye of June 1592 and beinge Teusday and the towne court daye of Shrowsburie accordinge to the order of the newe composic'on one of the baylyves to say master Edward Ireland beinge furthe of ye towne and master Baylyfe Powell beinge verey sycke was karied from his howse in a cheare to the boothe hall and syttinge therein, the cowrte was reiornid and so in licke man'er was karried agayne whom to his howse, whiche event hathe not been seene or harde of before.

This yeare and the 23 day of June one Mr John Toomkies[1] beinge curat of Sainct Maris churche in Salop beinge a famows lernid man and a publicke preacher there dep'tid this p'sent lyfe and was buried the next daye ensuinge the wch was mydsomm' daye for whose deathe of the p'fect p'testants was great lamentac'on.

This yeare in the moonthe of Awgust to say the . . . . day Umfrey Sadlar's daughter whose name was . . . . . drownid her sellfe whose father hangid hym sellffe as aperethe before, by whose deathe all her goodes cam to the towne of Shrewsburie God sennd all people better grace to serve God & to be better myndid.

This yeare bothe the assises were kept owt of Shrousbury to say at least at Bridge northe & at som' in Ludlo Mr Robart Eyton Esq Shereff.

This yeare and the xxvij*th* daye of August beinge Thursdaye the Baylyffs of Salop made a feaste in the guylde hall in Shrewsburie beinge at 4 tables a bove a hundred p'soons where they hadd plentie of venison wyne and other good cheere the whiche venyson was gyven by Mr Richard Corbett unto the towne for to meete & assemble in fryndly man' and to macke myry the wch was doon accordingely.

This yeare and about the ennde of August there was made by the baylyffs of Salop a clocke within the guylde hall there wth a diall w^th^in the hall and two dyalls w^th^out the hall the one to serve the highe streete market and passars by and the

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[1] "1592 June 24 Mr. John Tomkis Public Preacher buried."—*St. Mary's Register.*

inhabytants there, and the oder towards the corne marckett in lycke man', the wch two dialls do not onely noate howe the howres of the daye passethe but also theirin the picture of the moone howe it dothe increase and decrease verey artyficiall and comodius to the beholders.

This yeare and the first in Septe'ber 1592 in the night were woonderfull fierye inflamac'os and brightnes withe sutche light flashes and aspirac'ons that any person might deserne the value of a peece of money as yf it had ben breke of daye (to say light in darknes) the omnypotent God have m'cy upon us.

1592-3 Robart Irelande & Mychaell Chambers Baylyffs.

This yeare were chosen com'en sergiatt Thomas Browne draper and Roger Langley taylor sergiant to master Ireland and Richard Mannynge taylor sergia't to master Chambers.

This yeare and the 30 daye of Nove'ber beinge Sainct Andrews daye Richard Teggin draper was swoorne commyn sergiant in the place of Thomas Browne beinge electyd sergia't because he was lame and therefore unfitt to prosecute the same as aptaytaynyd.

This yeare and the 27 of November in the night Mr. Prynce his howse or place in the Abbey foriyate was broken by theeves to say they brocke into his countinge howse and foounde there smale stoare of money but foond the keys there to ope' the moost and chyffyst dores and places where they might have com by money and other things but belicke beinge frighted uppon soom noyse whiche they hard in the house departid uppon a soodden to a coate there hardd bye where they laft their horses but when they cam there their horses were gotte' owte into the filldes they knewe not whyther and beinge darcke allso so they toocke their heelis whyther no man can tell and laft the sayde pryvey kayes behynnde them and in the morninge the horses were foonde strayd in the fiellds beinge ij horses wth theire furniture the wch were brought to be seene bothe in this towne and other places to be scene yf by the sight of them any knowledge might be hadd.

This yeare and the xj*th* daye of January 1592 from the after noone of the same daye untill the 18*th* day to say a whoale weecke to geather the wynde beinge at the northwest continewid for the most p't sutche an extreeme tempest of wynde onely that did greate harme in many places.

This yeare and in the moonthe of Februarie began a p'lyme't to say the 19 day of Februarie for the whiche were chossen burgeysis for the towne of Shreusburie at the request of the Earle of Essex master Reynold Scriven and master Robart

Wright beinge the Earles stuard, and were made knights of the shire for the sayd p'lyme't master Fraunces Newport and Mr. Robart Needam.

This yeare all this som' the citie of London was visited wth the plage and a pestelent burninge ague great numbers died, the sayd plage was in Darby, Lichfilld, Bewdley, Worcester, Glocester, Tewksbery, Wem, Bishops Castell and w^th^in 3 myles of Shreusbery, so that watche and warde was kept for longe tyme at all the gates there that non infected p'son or any others shulld com from those placs except they kept them sellves owt of the towne for a monthes space at the least by wch pollitick governm^t^ and the omnipotent blessinge favor & governme't of God the towne of Shreusbery was free and escapid danger God be praysed for the same. Amen.

This yeare 1593 the 25 of August ye great assise keapt in Shreusberie Sir Ric' Corbet Esq. beinge Sheerriff.

This day A^o^ dicto and the 6 day of September beinge Thursday departid this p'sent lyffe mysteres Mary Cole of Shrewsburie, and was buried the Saturday followinge who was a verteous gentill' & of a good mynde of no pride but familiar wth the simplist of all, willinge to hyr power to do good to all p'sons and never consentid to the hurtt or hyndera'ce of any p'soon.

This yeare and the x*th* of Septe'ber the woorthy knight Sr Edward Leighton of Watilsborowe in the countie of Salop and beinge one of the counsell in the m'shes of Wales dep'tid this p'sent lyffe beringe greate countena'ce and fame all Shropshire ov' whose buriall was not solempnisid untill a moonthe after, whose deathe was sore missed & lamented of many.

This yeare and the 17 daye of Septe'ber A^o^ p'd there was burnid in Stretton to saye mydle Stretton in the count' of Salop xj howses and barnes by myschance of fier after this man' to say a nydiart or foole of the same towne makinge a fier by a ricke of strawe adioininge to a barne caught fiere in the ricke and so to the barn, beinge fewe p'sons laft in the towne but were a broade about their bussines and markets so that havinge lyttell helpe or past helpe whe' any cam so the number of thosse howses were spoilid as aforesaid.

There was burned also the same daye at Shyffnall two howses by the necklygence of an olde ma' beetinge fier in a bruehouse being hevie and sleepy and soe the fier caught into the thatche of the howse and so were burnt.

The yeare and the xxij*th* of Septe'ber the baylyffs Alderme' and come' cownsell of the towne of Shreusburie mett together wth the assistance of Mr Sergia't Owe' at the guild hall

comme'ly callid the boothe hall of Shreusburie wth the assembly of the commons there of and conserninge the benyvolent gyft of Sr Thomas White late of London (of woorthy fame) of the soom of 104*li* laft by hym to the towne of Shreusburie to be lennt to 4 yonge occupiars being clothears for 10 yeres and the matter being debated before the commons in the guyld hall there and the pryncipall poyntes of the will and testame't of the sayd Sir Thomas White there ope'ly declarid and the lernid mynde of Mr Sergia't Owe' therupon uttered and upon the same deliberac'on granted to the saide comme's to pounder uppon the same untill the next daye beinge Thursday whiche 4 owt of a number beinge namid and agreid upon most elect'on but the baylyves and counsellors had agreid before uppon these 4 to saye Richard Betton, Geordge Phellips Nycholas Leighton & Thomas Chorltoon, but as it was thought the most parte of the comuns by their p'sons and voyces wold not have Thomas Chorlt'n but wolld have had in his place Thomas Yevans and uppon that point they stood so longe in triall by voices & hands that they coulld not disserne the difference uppon the wch they dep'tid and weare all by the baylyves appointed to meete againe the next daye beinge Friday and were fayne to goe throughe the dore by pole and so their names taken and the choise in number fell upon Thomas Chorlt'n but the dyfference was but lytyll and on Saturday followinge they severally reseved theire porc'ons to say 25*li* a peece and the odd 4*li* was for the bayliffs in v'singe and payeinge the same apoynted so by the granter, the discourse of whose famous graunt and stablished gyft aperithe somwhat larger in this boocke.

1593-4 Edward Owen draper & Humfrey Hughes Sherma' Baylyffs.

This yeare were chosen sergiaunts at the mace to say Richard ap Ric' wer' comme' sergia't Willia' Jencks drap' sergia't to Mr. Owe' and Rychard Harries taylor sergia't to Mr. Hughes.

This yeare and the 9*th* of October in the after noone the almshowses[1] in Franckvill was by myschance on fyer and there had not be' greate helppe and dilligence it had spoilid many howses beinge charged wth broome fagotts and other drie fuell verey dangerous but God be thanckid by reason of Severn water so neere and rediness of the people it was stayed for p'ceedinge any further the' thosse almshouses and savinge two or three of their howses burnt and spoilid wthin furthe all

[1] These were St. John's or Coles Almshouses.

ye rest owtward a bout was keapt standinge and the mischance therof cam by one of the' fatchinge coles of fyer in a woode' dyshe and levinge it in hir howse goinge uppon an arrant the fyer burned the dishe and so caught hollde of brome or sutche licke fuell and before she cam agayne the house was on fyer the dore beinge shutt.

This yeare and the xxj*th* day of November beinge Wensday a man of mast' Thomas Chorlt'n drap^{r} whose name was Roger beinge an husbandma' was drowned in mackinge fast of a peece of wood for goinge downe the watersyd being somwhat highe and coulld not be foounde of longe tyme after, the next daye followinge beinge the 22 daye was a mayde drowned by Montford whose name was Elizabethe Reynollds (the chance fell owt thys) a yonge ma' and shee passing in a boate to fatche another over the water and in passinge in the sayde boate a longe the shoreside the wynd beinge extreeme bigge drive the boate upon the roote of a tree lyeinge in the water and so ov' turnid the' bothe in the water, the yonge ma' savid hym sellffe but the mayde was drownid and not as yeat foounde beside other two more drownid in the saide water wthin 4 myles compasse, but ye said Eli'h was foond againe not before ye 21 day of Janu' & brought to Salop ye 22 day of Januarie and the crown^{rs} jury charged so buried the sayd day.

This yeare 1593 and the 15 daye of December at night Severn water at Shreusbury did rise by the reason of greate weete and of sutche contynewance that it did ryse a foote deep in dyv' mens howses especiall in Franckvill somwhat nere the wat' syde and continewed and keapt at the horsefayres monthe more the' 8 dayes with sutche terrible tempest of wynnde and rainge for the space of a moonthe before, that the licke wether hathe not ben seene and never sennce before hallentide the water was not under a floate wat' and the wynnd keapinge most terrible togethe' for the space of 7 weaks in the reast.

This yeare and the 8 daye of Januarie beinge Tuesdaye the quarter seassions for the shire beinge Shiriffe of the same Mr. Robart Powell of the Parcke by Oswestrie at ye whiche seassions (beinge u sually keapt in the towne of Shresburie) was not hymsealffe presennt but his deputie, and the next daye followinge bei'g the 9*th* daye of Januarie the towne seassions of gaole delyvi' in Shrosbery was keapt in the whiche were 2 condempned, one savid by his boocke & the rest whipped.

This yeare and the 21 day of Marche beinge Thursday there fell sutche a monsterous dry wynde and so extreeme feerce

owt of the northeweast all that whole day univ'sall all England ov' that the force thereof threwe downe barnes, uncoverid a number that were both thatchid and tylid, overthrowinge howses, steeples, parcke pales and greate treese, and soondry parsoons slayne by the fall of them, that the lycke wynde was never seene of thosse that be lyvinge in these dayes, to the greate losse and hinderance of most men, the force wherof amongist other losses in thys towne of Shreusbury removid the upp' part of Sainct Maris steeple owt of his place towards the southeest about 5 inches and at the present remove there was master Laut'n publycke precher there in the pulpit that yf it had fallen it wold have dryve' the churche uppon the heads of hym and the people but God stayd the fall thereof and p'servyd the precher & his people God be thanckid the danger therof so standinge that the people of the towne durst not ringe the bells nor any bell for shakinge of the same to a further inconvenience the wch were the plesaunts and comfortablest ringe of bells in all the towne as also the disvigurid sight of the steeple so standinge was a greate eyesore not onely to the townesmen but unto the coontrey and other strang^s^ passingers in considerac'on wherof the baylyffs and townesme' whe' oportunitie servyd made p'parac'on for things nedefull and a chiffe masson gott'n to remedy the same so that before all things were fynishid and the skaffollds bothe w^th^in and without take' downe to say the 22 daye of June and the 23 daye followinge beinge Soonday the grette bell was ronge owt there to the sermonde and the 29*th* daye of June beinge Sotturday followinge all the bells were roonge verey solumly to the comforde of all the herars; it is further to be noted that the vj*th* day of June the wether coke of Sainct Maris steeple was tacke' downe of the topp of the sayd steeple by one Francs Barnet of Salop bricke layer who newe pointid the said steeple the wch coke was seene and shewid to many whiche was and is of brasse wainge 12 pounds ½ the lengthe of the sayde coke from the bill to the ennde of his tayle is a yarde lackinge 2 ynches and the deepnes from the topp of the combe unto the bottome of the breast is halfe a yarde & one inche and was put on the steeple topp againe the 14 daye of June by one John Richmoond of Acton Reynolld masson chiffe woorckema' of the stoane woorcke and the placinge of the sayde bracke or cracke wth his advice in the scaffolds mackinge bothe w^th^in the sayd steeple as w^th^out, who mesurid the whoole steeple and towre from the toppe of the same to the bottom as by hys iust report ys in thys man' to say, the barr that berithe the cocke ys 2 inches and a halfe thyck & is

in compas a boute 10 inches and the saide barr is in height from the cocke to the upper stoane 6 foote 10 inches. The crosse barr of iron ys 3 foote 10 inches the topp stoane under the barr is in breadthe 2 foote 2 inches, it is from the topp-stoane to the cracke 14 foote and from the cracke to the upper wyndows 31 foote 7 inches and from the upper wyndowe to the nether wyndowe 39 foote, and from the nether wyndowe to the bottoom of the spire at the garretts 47 foote & a halfe, so that the whoale spire in stoane woorcke is 132 foote & one inche. The whole towre from the bottoom of the spire is to the grownde 87 foote and a halffe. so the height of all the stoane woorcke from the bottoom of the grounde unto the topp stoane that holldithe the barr ys 219 foote 7 inches the wch is 73 yards and 7 inches and adding therunto 6 foote 10 inches, so then by this accompt the cocke standethe in height from the grownde 76 yards 5 inches. And it is further to be notid the cocke of the steeple standethe lower from the grownde by 9 yards & 9 inches the' Pawles steeple standithe nowe after this maner to be reconnid, that Pawles spire steeple in Loondon was in tymber woorcke and leadid over to the battelme'ts before the burninge therof in height 200 foote and the steple or mayne towre as it standethe newe ys in height from the grownd 260 foote wch ys 86 yards & 2 inches, so it aperethe the difference to be as afor is layde downe 9 yards 9 inches higher than St. Maris steple, and the whoale height of Poales steaple was before it was burnte from the grownde 153 yards & one foote, furthe' Pawles churche ys in leangthe 720 foote wch is 240 yards the wch is 12 score.

This yeare and in this moonthe [May] and in these baylyves tymes there was errectyd and made about the highe crosse in Shreusburie a place of tymber woorcke for contrey folks and others to sit and stand drie from raine to sell their poultrie butter egges and chesse &c the wch was coverid and fynyshid the 10 daye of July.

This yeare and the 9*th* daye of June 1594 about 3 or 4 of the clocke in the morninge there fell sutche a storme & fright-full thunder clap wch did harme in Bridgenorthe and in other places at that instant.

This yeare and the 30 of July beinge Tuesday and the towne court day in Shreusburie a matt' betwyxt master Fraunes Mere Ditheg' and master Sturry of Rossoll wennt to a Jury and the matter was so longe pleaded before them and goinge togeather and chargid a bout 6 of the clocke at night and contynewyd untill 8 of the clocke on Thursday night followinge and coulld not agree w^th^out meate drinke or any other releeffe and som of

the sayd Jury before they wolld yeald wold eyther dye the' selves or famishe others upon the wch extremitie the baylyffs and worship of the towne intreatid bothe the p'ties to conscyder the lyffe of men and to put the matter to frynnds the wch in the ennde they dyd agre uppon and presently entrid into baunds and so uppon the same the Jury cam owt as aforesaid weacke I noughe especially som, of the' yf they had taried one night longar had died.

This yeare and most p't of the somm' & p't of the harvest tyme contynewly for the most p't was greate weete that Severn wat' did hollde upp most strandge and not mutche under a flote water from the beginninge of June to the begyninge of August and the' cam 4 or 5 days verey faire and then began agayne mixinge wethere that where rye was at 18*d.* or xx*d.* the bushell and wheate 8 grots nowe it is rise' to 3*s.* 2d. rye and 5*s.* 4*d.* wheate so that yf God do not sennd sesonable weather in tyme it wille licke to fall dearer, but God be praysed it cam to passe that the ennde fell owt a verry fayre season to all peoples comfford.

This yeare the' was apointid by the clergy wth the conscent of the bayliffs and assistants of thys towne of Shreusburie a generall fast to be used to say the xj*th* day of August beinge Soondaye at wch day most of the inhabitants in Salop repayrid to Sainct Maries churche there to pray and call uppon God to sennd seasonable weather to bringe in theyre corne for the comford of his people who lamentinge their synns and callinge to God wth sootche godly sermons made there of the p'chars to the comfford of all the hearars the wch contynewyd all that Soonday from 8 of the clocke in the mor'inge untill 4 of the clocke at night and never cam owt of churche untill then.

This yeare and the xxvj*th* of August the greate assisse was hellde in Shreusburie and the iudgs of the assises were brought in by the Shyreffe of the Shire whose name was Mr. Robart Powell of the Parcke by Oswestrie Esquire who cam in verey valiantly and at the ennde of the assise there were three condempnid to say two men and a woma' so the twoo men were executid & the woama' reprivid beinge thought to be wth childe.

This yeare and the 4*th* day of October beinge the elect'on daye for the makinge of newe baylyffs and beinge at night there was murtherid by serte' unruly youthes of the towne one Thomas Lakon aprentise wth Mr. Richard Chirwel drap' beinge uppon the elect'on that night and his saide man beinge under the hall waitinge for his m^{r} to com owt sett uppon hym verey cowardly sett uppon hym purposidly pretendid aforehand by

them and so gave hym soondrie dedly woounds for the whiche soom are uppon suspic'on put in the gaole to be examyned to trie owt the truthe wch God sennd Amen. he was a proper youthe and com of good frinds.

1594-5 David Lloyd drap' & Thomas Lewis Baylyffs.

This yeare was chosen comme' sergiant Edward Phellips sherma' and the other two sergiants were Richard Hardinge sherma' unto Mr. Baylyf Lloid and John Lewis tann' s'giant to Mr. Baylyff Lewys.

This yeare and the 29*th* day of October 1594 beinge Tuesday was the towne seassions of Salop of gaole delivery there and master Fowlar beinge stuard and sittinge there wth the baylyffs in the whiche sessions were condempnid Hughe Preece serva't wth Robart Taylor of Salop sherman and William Morris soon unto Willia' Morris of Salop sherman for wilfull murther for murtheringe of one Thomas Lakon s'vant unto Mr. Rychard Chirwell of Salop drap' as apeerithe in the last p'cell of the last yeare who were executid at the olld heathe the next daye followinge beinge the 30 daye of October in the after noone of the same daye, who althoughe in their lyve tymes were unruly youthes yeat at theire end they died wth paeience repentinge their former lyves to the exsample of all youthes and people present at whose execut'on were a greate multitude.

This yeare by the reson of swiftnes of rie and unsesonablenes of barly and karrienge owt of rie and other grayne from place to place and stolle' owt of the lannd corne waxid verey deere in Shreusbery to say rie at 13 and 14 grots wheate at 5*s* and 16 grotts the bushell.

This yeare about the ennde of M'che there went souldiars owt of Shropshire and other places towards Ireland for the Earle of Terrone did rebell wth his assosiates and burnid towards the northe parte and stole serte' eattell there and so returnyd.

This all the monthe of M'che corne kept still deere to say wheat at 7*s*. and upwards and rye at 17 grotes.

This yeare 1595 was Francs Albany Esquire Sheref who keppt bothe the assises at Bridgenorthe.

This yeare and the 5*th* daye of Septe'ber A° p'd there was in the howse of Rychard Mynton dwellinge in the suburbs of Salop a strange pigge farieed havinge two hynder parts from the navill downewarde and one inteere bodie upwards to say one head neeke and breast havinge 8 feete verey strandge to behelld to saye the nether partes joynid syde to syde soondred from the upper p't of the bodie havinge two lagges a peece benethe and 4 leggs above from the whoale body in suehe sort

aperinge so playne that the contrarie legge of the one servyd eiche other for the other legge so althoughe there were 4 leggs above yeat had they two leggs a peece after sutche man' that the one legge of the one servyd and apeerid to be the fellow to the other and had under one skynn 2 backe bones aperinge unto the necke yeat joyninge and growinge togeather aperinge benethe to be two boare piggs having but one pissill & one hart and was faried alyve but dieed presently after.

This yeare and in the moonthe of October the counsell of the marches of Wales cam to Shrewsburie to keape the tearme there wch dothe begin the secoond daye of November ensuinge & stayd there.

This yere corne kept verey deere still to say wheate at 7*s.* 6*d.* and rye at 6*s.* the wch was a strange matt' conscideringe y^t^ harvyst beinge past & all corne in. God for hys mercy sake amend it and helpe the poore Amen.

1595-6 Wylliam Jones & Thomas Chorltoon Baylyffs.

This yeare and the thrid of October beinge Friday and the elect'on day for the forsaide baylis &c the xxv p'sons that were chosse' entrid into the elect'on house about 12 of the clocke the sayde daye and cam not owt before Seturday at night so at lengthe agreed upon the forsayd baylyffs and made John Wycherley common sergia't and the other two sergiants were John Butterie weav' for Mr. Baylyff Joanes and Thomas Davies taylor for Mr. Chorlt'n.

This yeare and the 8*th* daye of Januarie was the towne sessions of Salop of gaole deliv' where serte' p'sconn's were raignid and the twelve that wennt uppon lyffe and deathe for savinge of them beinge indighted were sore thretenid by the Stuard and baylyffs to be fynid and were all commytted to the gate.

This yeare and the x*th* daye of Januarie A°. p'dict beinge Saturday Severne water did sooddenly rise by the reason of greate raine and contynwall wynde that the water did rise in men's howses in the subu'bes of the sayde towne and especially in the subu'bs of Francvill that the water was in the goodma' Mynttoons howse xiiij ynches deepe that the howsholld were fayne to assennd up to their chambers a lofte and contynuid there untill Moonday morninge before it dep'tid clene owt of the howses and thosse wch cam to the market bothe of contrey folks as inhabitants in the sayd subu'bs were fayne to passe to and fro the sayd towne in bargs and boates and the water kept still at the horsefayre mowthe for the space of 7 or 8 dayes.

This yeare and the x*th* day of Januarie beinge Saturdaye and in the after noone of the same daye one Thomas Yeavans

of Oswestrie gentil' was shamefully murthered under the Wilde copp against the redd lyon in the sayde towne of Shreusburie by one Rychard Twysse trumpeter and servaunt to one master Williams the whiche Twisse cam behynd the sayde Evans in feyghteinge withe one Emery a fellowe of the sayde Twisse and thrust hym throughe the bodie with a rapiar who toocke his horsse and presently withe all speed passid on horse backe throughe the towne and throughe the water in Franckevill beinge so highe in gallopinge throughe the sayd water most desperatly for it was soe suddenly doon and feightinge withe another & presse of people so thicke about them that it was not knowen untill he fell downe a non after the wownde and then knowledge had the sayde Twisse was pursuid with hughe and crye but cowld not be ov'take' & so as yeat not taken.

This yeare and sethins the begininge of November untill the saide p'sent daye of January the winde contynwid almost ev'y daye very ruggid in the weast & northe west for the space of 9 or ten weeks verey unquiet and mutable wether without any greate frost or snowe to speake of contrarie to usuall tyme.

This yeare and the xxix*th* daye of Januarie was the towne sessions of gaole delyv' callyd againe in the towne of Shreusburie for that daye as conscerninge the sayde murther at the whiche was condempnid Humffrey Cleye of Shrewsburie paynter for that he p'curid the brawle and was bustelinge withe them and gave before threteninge woords in that behalffe and had judgme't to goe to the place of execuc'on but was keapt and repri'ed for a tyme and greate freenship made by Mr. Thomas Leight'n beinge capte' of the traynid men (of wch number he beinge one) sekinge wth others to save hym yf they can.

This yeare & ye 12*th* daye of Februarie 1595 about eveninge of the same daye a child of one Ric' Hoggins weav' whose name was Mary Hoggins of the adge of 4 yeres old was murthered in the Fishestrete by a burde fallinge uppon hir she plainge there wth other children the other escapid but she was kyllyd the more was the pyty yf it had so plesid God.

This yeare and in the moonthe of Marche to say the . . . day of the same the olld buyldinge in the cornemarket place was agreid to be take downe and the tymber woorcke therof was solld to serten of the townes me' and withe all speed to erect and buyld in the place withe stoane and tymber a s'mpteous hall a loft and a lardge marcke howse for corne benethe and it is to be notid that the serche and foondac'on was a quart' of a yeare before it was fynishid and so the stoane

woorcke was begon the 15 day of June followinge and was fynishid and almost coverid before the baylyffs of the sayde towne wennt owt of their offices at my'helmas followinge.

This yeare and the 30 day of July A°. 96 a child of Thomas Foxes of Salop husbandma' of 2 yeares ollde playeinge with other childre' in the cornem'kett was murtherid in the cornmarket in Shreusburie withe a pece of tymber being placid there wth other tymber against Phillip Pigions housse did fall uppon hir and pressid the sayd chilld to deathe before any helpe cam. and the reast escapid.

This yeare 1596 Mr. Robart Needam Esqr. was Sheref & keapt the som' assise in Salop ye 26 of August.

1596-7 John Webbe & Nycholas Gybbons Baylyffs.

This yeare and the first daye of October beinge Friday and the elect'on daye for ye foresaid Baylyffs was chosen common sargiant Edward Lloid corviser Francys Betton shoomaker sergia't to Mr. Webb and Thomas Phellips baker sergia't to Mr. Gibbonns.

This yeare and the 21 day of November 1596 one John Ludlowe the soon of Roger Ludlo of Salop weav' hanged hym sellffe in his fathers house the cause therof was not knowe' but thought to bee his owne wickid purpose beinge a youthe not fullye in his sencies so that before at soondrie tymes assayde thesse wickid meanes to ennde his lyfe but was preventid and seene unto. God be m'cyfull unto us and blesse us all withe his gracious spyrite and to lyve in his love and feare. Amen.

This yeare is further to be notid that greate tempest of thunder wynde and rayne hathe ben for the most parte sethins mihelmas last and especially uppon the 27 day of Novemb'r a bout thre of the clocke in the after noone was about Shreusberie sutche extreeme tempest of wynnde rayne and thoonder wth lighteninge.

This yeare there was by the baylyffs and alderme' of Shreusberie wth the commons of the same provision made for corne at Loondon the whiche cam from Danswicke Denmarke and those foren places to ease all England and especially Loondon of the excessyve prices wch corne bare all England ov' and especially in Shreusberie so that there was p'vidid a bove 3200 bushell at the least for Shrewsberie and cam by the way of Bristowe and was sold to the commons there after the rate of 8*s*. the bushell of rie whiche was in the markett at 12*s*. and better and wheate at 14 & 15*s*. and also there was preparid to be bakid of the sayde rye 40 bushells weeckely by the towne bakers in peny breed two peny bredd three peny bread and

foure peny bredd for the poore to have it for their money wch had not nor were not able to by any other bigger porcion then by the peny ij*d.* iij*d.* or a grote whiche for want of the same were lycke to perrishe and were so unruly and gredie to have it so that the baylyffs vj men & other officers had mutche a doe to serve the'. The God most mightie sennd plentie y^t his chosen flocke perrishe not and dy for want as many in all contrees in England die and goe in greate numbers myserably abegginge and leve their howses and be not able to lyve.

This yeare and the x*th* daye of Januarie 1596 beinge Tusday after twelffe day and the quarter seassions for the shire in Shrosbury did contynewe and holld a bove his ordinarie course whiche was iij dayes the cause was thus they houlde therew^thall a gaole delyv' of the shyre prison's beinge about 50 in number whereof were 12 put to execuc'on 7 burnt in the hand and 6 apointid to be whipt and the rest for waunt of bills of indictme't were reiornid untill the next quarter seassions or assises.

This yeare and the 20 day of January beinge Thursday senight after the sayd quarter sessions of the shire the towne seassions of gaole delyvi' was holde' whe'in sutche towne prison's that were foound under the value were lett passe at libertie painge for their irons and chardgs whiche continewed also untill Saturday in the after noon because the saide baylyffs had mutche a doe withe inmates and idle p'soons pesteringe the towne in examinge of the' and so drive' owt of the towne to their owne coontres for that they repaired in greate numbers owt of soondrie coontries to lyve idely and loyteringely overchardginge & hinderinge the chepnes of corne beinge so exceedinge deere by whiche meanes the poore inhabitants had lesse releeffe to their utter undoinge. God amend it whe' hys will is. Amen.

This yeare and the xiij*th* daye of April 1597 a bout 4 of the clocke of the same in the after noone there did raine in the towne of Ludlowe wheate[1] in soom smale quantitie and there was gathered upp a pint of the same whiche was delyv'id to the Lorde President there of ye Marches beinge then at Ludlowe Castell and soom of it brought to the towne of Shreusbury, there did the licke fall in Ponspery and som the licke in Shreusbury verey shortly after the sayd grayne beinge thre square soom in p'fect forme and some blacke & soffter the' the naturall forme but full of flowre and thinnir ryndid

[1] This supposed wheat was no doubt the tubers of the common Pilewort, *Ranunculus Ficaria* (L).

then the naturall God for his mercies sake turne all to the beast and take pitie uppon us and gyve us all grace to repent and amend Ame'.

This yeare and abouts the myds of May corn cam to be at the deerist for wheate was at 18*s*. the bushell and rye at 15*s*. beanes at 13*s*. chesse at 4*d*. the pound and all other victells after the lycke rate.

This yeare and the 21 of June was one Jhon Arrowsmythe the soon of Thomas Arrowsmythe of Shreusburie shoomaker drownid in Seevarn bathinge of hym the same daye.

This yeare and the secoond daye of July A° p'dict master Thomas Sturrye[1] of Shrewsburie and a gentill' by birthe of good callinge and soomtymes baylyff of Shrewsburie was drownid passinge hym selffe over the water of Sevarn towards his place at Rossall and in landi'ge hym sellffe beinge to slowe havinge one foote uppon the land and a nother on the boate the boate slyppyd from the one foote before he coulld recover his body to land and so fell backward into the watter and so was drownid wch was a pitifull case.

This yeare and the 28*th* of August the greate assise was keapt in thys towne of Shrewsburie and contynewed from Moonday untill Wensday at noone wch was verey bussie and a quicke dispatche consideringe the gaole beinge so greate in the whiche were condempnid to dye 7 prisoners the wch goinge to execut'on the sayd Wensday in the after noone there were 6 hangid & one brought backe againe to be savid who was chargid withe the stealinge of a bagge of corne but he wolld have taken hys deathe that he did fynnd the same and so consideringe the extreeme dearthe and scarsetie of the yeare was pitied. Mr. Edward Skryve'[2] Esquire beinge Shyrreff who cam in wth the Judges most valiantly and keapt in Shreusbury duringe the tyme of his contynuance a plentifull howse.

This yeare & in the month of Septe'ber was kept the towne seassions of Salop of gaoll delyvi'.

1597-8 Thomas Burnell & Rychard Chirwell Baylyves.

This yeare the three sergeaunts were to say commun s'giant Willyam Barnes shoomaker Roger Phillipps tann' sergia't to Mr. Baylyf Burnell and Phillip Willdinge sargiant to Mr. Baylyff Chirwell.

This yeare and in the moonthe of February 1597 was a sessme't grauntid by bothe baylyffs withe the woorshipps and

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[1] "1597 July 2 Thomas Stury Esq. buried drowned at Little Berwick."—*St. Mary's Register.*

[2] Of Frodesley. Arms :—*arg* guttée de sang, a lion rampant *sa*.

whole consents of the p'rishion's of Sainct Chadds[1] in Shrosbury of the soom of xxx*li* and upwards towards the payment of the newe castinge of the bells in the sayde churche wth the frames wheeles & bell ropes of the same wch were sore decayed and the bells owt of tune and order whiche weare cast & brought in tune and all other things fynisheed before witsontyde followinge beinge in June, it is to be notid that bothe the baylyves of thys towne weare this yeare of the sayd p'rrishe beinge verey forward in ye same.

This yeare Lent assises was kept at Bridgenorthe the . . . day of Marche 1597 beinge then Shyreffe Mr. Charles Fox Esquire.

This yeare in Aprill and in the Ester weeke was a great cockfeight and other pastymes kept in Shreusbury at Rychard Hortoon's house beinge geylar of the towne upon whose backsid a howse and the pitt was made for the peaple to staund and soe stand saffe from weather unto the wch cam Lords Knights and gentilmen at the wch was grete soms of money woon and lost. The matche was made betweene the Cocks of Cheshire and Lanckashir against the cocks of Shropshire and Wales thidir cam Lunden^s^. wth their cocks whiche held wth Shropshiremen but in the ennd the Cheshireme' and Lancashir had the victory and wennt away wth the gaynes of greate soms of money.

This yeare and the 7*th* day of Julii were serte' sowldiars mustrid in Shrosburie and the shire about for Ireland who dep'tid towards Ireland the next day followinge by 4 of the clocke in ye morninge beinge Saturday and ye 8 day of July by water towards Bristowe.

This yeare & the xiij*th* day of July 1598 beinge Thursday the towne sessionns of Salop of gaoll delyvery was kept there for all sutche towne prisoners as theire weere to have their tryall at wch seassions master Townshend his woorshipp beinge of late chose' by the consent of the communs to be their Steward sate as iudge uppon them & there were 3 executid.

The next daye followinge beinge the xij*th* day [July] there was won Joanes a Shropshyrma' executyd at Sainct Mary Watterings who studd stowtely a gainst the Queene's M^ts^ proceedings being a semynary.

This yeare master Thomas Sherar[2] beinge an Alderman of the towne of Salop and boarne in the same and of lonnge tyme

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[1] In Phillips, p. 85, is a view of old St. Chad's Church.

[2] Son of Edward Sherar by Alice, daughter of John Harris, of Cruckton. He had two wives, and left a large family.

belonginge to the counsell beinge one of the chyffist clarks in the same as also the keaper and regestiar of the boocks theare and cheeffe examiner of deepe causes was burieed the towne of Salop the xxviij*th* daye of July A°. 1598 and dieed in Bewdley where he was attendaunt upon hys offic the counsell the' lyeinge there, who was solemely burieed and mooche moane made for & especially of his kynn and lyse me' who had been good to the' & his servaunts.

This yeare Lady Margaret Newport[1] of Eytoon and in the county of Salop wydowe dep'tid this present lyfe the xj*th* daye of August A°. p'd and was buried at Rockcetter the next day followinge beinge hir will so and the xxix*th* day of August all the bells in Shreusburry dyd ringe in remembrance of hyr the whiche towne she lovyd well and she was belovyd of the inhabytants therin there was bestowyde uppon the poore that day xx*li* besyds many other placs in the coontery verey amply, she was a verteous lady in all hyr lyfe tyme and verey good to the poore in towne & coontrey.

This yeare and the xxxj daye of August beinge Thursday the greate assises was kept in Shresbury the Shirreffe whose name was Mr. Charles Foxe who brought in the iudgs upon Wensday at night before verey woorshippfully withe a goodly trayne in the whiche assises were condempnid and executed uppon the thrid day of Septe'ber beinge Saturday in the afternoon 5 prisoners after the departinge of the iudgs whiche prysoners wennt to their execut'on verey stubburnly & desperately, and wolld neither repennt nor praye and when the Sherreffe wolld admonishe the' to repentance and to conffesse for the example of others they wolld andswer hym so stubbornly and saye that they cam not thyder to preache.

This yeare and in the moonthe of Septe'ber at the ennde of the same month corne was solld in Shrewsburie to say Rye the bushell at 3*s*. 4*d*. and wheate at iiij*s*. and 4*s*. 4*d*. the bushell and other grayne ac'odi'ge.

1598-9 John Perche Alder' & Rychard Dawes Baylyffs.

This yeare 1598 and ye 6*th* day of October beinge the Friday next after Myhelmas daye beinge also upon a Fridaye were chosse' the forsayde Mr. John Pearche Alderma' and Mr. Richard Dawes Baylyffs and Richard Teanche commun sargia't and the other two sargia'ts were Robart Smythe shoomaker and Thomas Coomiye taylor to saye the sayd R^t^ Smythe sergia't to Bayly Pearche and T. Toomiy shergya't to Bayly Dawes.

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[1] Her altar tomb of effigies of herself and her husband, Sir Francis Newport, is on the south side of the Chancel of Wroxeter Church.

This yeare and the eighth of January beinge Monday there were two of the Clarcks beinge watermen and dwellinge in Shreusburie were drownid in passinge wth a bardge throughe the Walsh bridge laden wth wood and other more in danger of drowninge at the same tyme it is further to be understood that the bardge that they were in was their owne beinge in towne 3 breethre' in all whouse names were to say Edward Clarcke John Clarcke and Richard Clarcke cooming all downe the water lade' as a foresayd and thinckinge to shute the bridge the ennd of the same towchinge the bridge tornyd the same a crosse the bridge overwhelmyd and they all fell into the water Edward the eldist escapid by greate lucke, John and Richard beinge drownyd and ye water the' beinge greate Richard beinge the yongist was not foound before Saturday followinge being the xijth day of Februarie at Bulgars loade[1] under the wall and John was nott foonde before the 8 day of Februarie which was 31 dayes after his drowninge and was foond betweene the Beyond the Walls & Stury's Closse stickinge at the roote of a wythye.

This yeare and the 16*th* daye of February was the gaole delyvi' in Shrosbery in the whiche there was but one executed whose name was Dod who was a notable theffe or ells he hadd not suffered no more the' the ooder dyd for Mr. Townsshend[2] beinge Stuarde and Judge over them was so full of pitie and mercy that his woorshipp did what was possible for the lyfe.

The greate Assize was kept in Bridge northe the 5*th* day of Marche A^{o} p'dicto beinge Shyreffe of Shropshire Sr Edward Kynnaston knight[3] who cam in thider most woorthely and keapt there sutche a bowntyfull howse for most of the gentilme' and others strangers besydes the townes men there also invitid wth comm's and gears that the inholders were speedily hyndred y^{t} the licke there was nev^{r} seene.

This yeare and the 4*th* daye of June A^{o}. 1599 the counsell of the Marches of Wales cam to this towne of Shrewsburie to kepe tearme there and contynewed but one tearme and departed here hence seale and all the 6 of July the towne being

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[1] Bulgerode was a gate or postern at the bottom of Roushill.

[2] Henry Townshend, of Cound, Esq., afterwards Sir Henry (3rd son of Sir Robert Townshend, chief justice of Wales), buried at Cound 9th Dec., 1621. His daughter Elizabeth married Edward Cresset, Esq., of Upton Cresset. See also *Trans.* Shropsh. Arch. Soc., 3, 130.

[3] Of Oteley, father of Sir Francis Kynaston, a poet and scholar, Esquire of the Body to Charles I., and Regent of the "Museum Minervæ." Arms :—*az.*, a lion rampant *sa.*—Blakeway's *Sheriffs.*

woorse the' the better for the' because they made provision for the' for two tearmes and keapt but one.

This yeare and the xvj*th* daye of August the greate assise was keapt in Shrewsbery beinge Shireffe therof Sir Edward Kinnaston who cam in to r's the iudges valiantly and keapt ope' howse to all comm's for beere and beeffe and sumptous cheere at hys sett table for gentilme' strangers and me' of accompt com where of that sort wolld & wellcom.

This yeare and the 7*th* of September beinge Fryday the towne seassions of Shreusberye was hollden in the wch were condemnyd of towne pryson's . . . . . & the rest savyd beinge Stuard and iudge of them master Townsend a most woorthy Esquire.

This yeare & the xvj*th* day of September beinge Soonday was burnt by myschance of fyer in the night tyme in a villedge w^th^in a myle of the towne of Shrewsbury callyd Brase Meele two howses and a barne full of corne downe to the grownd wch was by the meanes of leavinge an ennd of a candell burninge that the fyer coming in the dead of the night all was spoylid before it coulld be stayde or any thinge to any a compt savyd.

This yeare dep'tid this p'sent lyffe Sir Ryc' Shutterworthe beinge Justice in the counsell of the M'ches of Wales who was a just conscionable & pitifull man & good to the poore.

1599-1600 Master Thomas Edwards & master Edward Owen Baylyffs.

This yeare and the 5*th* daye of October A° 1599 beinge the Frydaye next followinge after Myhelmas daye beinge the usuall day for the election of Baylyffs and Officers for the towne of Shrewsbury were electyd, and chosen Baylyves the foresayd master Thomas Edwards Esquire & mr. Edward Owen Alderman and commen sargiant Rychard ap Richard weaver and ye two other sargiaunts were Richard Hardinge the yonger taylor sergiant to Mr. Edwardds & Geordge Phellips sherman sergiant to Mr. Owen.

Further there ys to be noted that after the choosinge of master Edwards to be Baylyffe he wold not bee nor take the office uppon hym but stoodd uppon a pryveledge of the howse he dothe dwell in beinge in tymes past a colledge[1] and therfore he sayd he ought nott to be nottw^th^ standinge beinge a good gentilman and at lengthe pswadid beinge made of love by his frynnds was contennt and did r's his office thanckfully uppon this condic'on that uppon the choise of two lernyd men the

[1] The College of St. Chadd.

one for the towne and the ooder for hym sell that yf it were iudgid by the freedom of his howse that he shulld not be chargid withe that office yeat wolld he serve the office the yeare owt and never after to be charged withe any agayne, and yf it fell owt by lawe in their iudgeme'ts that hee ought and most take y^{m} office then to be contentyd withe good will to r's the same when herafter itt shulld fortune by ord^{r} and turne to fall to his lott.

This yeare and the 6 of October Mr. Robart Ireland Esquire departid this present lyffe who was a stowt protestant and a furtherar of the poore, a good house keeper and one y^{t} keptt greate countenance in his proseedings in this towne he died godly in good remembraunce unto the last ennde and was solemly burieed in Sainct Chadds churche in Shreusbury for whom were many weepinge teares & greate moane he will be myssid of his kinsfolke and freeunds.

The baylyves this yeare dyd diligently looke unto and ov'see the bakers in especially and others artyfysors bothe in theire assises of breadd and other weights and measures for over charginge the poore in more obstricter maner the' hathe been done before.

This yere was apoyntid a cryar for the night tyme (whose name ys Rychard Morrys beinge the commune bellman of Salop for the daye) to krye and call throughe the towne in the night gyvinge all peeple knowledge of the clocks to take heede of doores & locks, of fyer and candell light & so byddinge them all good nyght wch is a good order to avoyd the dangers that might followe.

This yeare and in the moonthe of November to say the 29 day a welthy tanner of Whitingtoon called Iveson drownid hym sellffe in a smale water by his owne house beinge a man of good yeares and a verey honest man in all his dealings wch caused his neyghboors and people to marvell mutche therat, but ov' com withe the wickid spirite as the Dyvill is most busiest uppon good peapell to woorcke his will to alter theyre good meanings, y^{t} most tymes forget to call uppon God bringethe the' to desperac'on God gyve us all grace to call uppon hym that wee be not temptid above our strengthe Amen.

This yeare and in thesse baylyves tymes and the xxix*th* day of December in the nyght there was a barne of corne and hey burnt of mystres Langles wydowe[1] dwellinge in the Abbey of

[1] This was the widow of Richard Langley, of the Abbey, gent, who died 1587, the son of Wm. Langley, the purchaser of the Abbey. Mrs. Elizabeth Langley was d. and coh. of Wm. Poyner, of Abbey foregate, gent.

Shreusbury throughe the myschance of a candle laft negligently in the oxehouse sarving them the same nyght, and yf great help had not been the oxen and all had been burnt, and the husband that was so neclygent roon away. The barne was full of wheate rye & hey havinge therby greate losse.

This yeare & ye thrid daye of m'che beinge mu'day the greate assise was kept at Bridgenorthe beinge Sherriffe Mr. Humfrey Lea[1] of Longnor who kept a bountyfull howse there.

This yeare & the x*th* of Marche Hoomfrey Sherars howse of Salop sherma' dwellinge in the Barkers streete was by myschance sett on fyer throughe a kill y^t^ hee had & no grete harme doon savinge ye kill was burnt & all the malt theron, the housse beinge wette and filthely slabbered by reasoon of ye speedy helpe of the water in tanpitts hard by was in good tyme slakid.

This yeare and the vij*th* daye of Aprill one Robart beinge ostelar of the Redd Lyon in Shreusburie goinge whomewards to visit his ffrennds was sett on by the way by one David Davies ali's Cricke uppon an old grudge and in fyght withe the company of a taylor that cam in company withe the sayd Davies the sayd ostelar was slayne by the sayd Davies about Hadnall goinge uppon his iurney.

There was this weeke in the sayd towne of Salop div'se houses frightened with fyer throughe the neckligence of loockinge to kills as to say Rychard Yemans tann' and Cundertoons howse a bruar in the Abbey foreyate but thancks be to God no harme doon.

The xix*th* daye of Aprill A^o^ p'd a servant of master Thomas Onslows of borow Attoon neere Baschurche in the countie of Salop whose name was Peter Carter stood uppon the pillorie with a paper uppon his hedd as conscerninge a vehement suspic'on in hym to pretend ye poysoinge of his sayd Mr., the dishe and spone wch servid hym wth poddedg wherin the poyson was and p'tly of the poyson that was laft in the bottoom of the same of the wch he tasted beinge p'sently sycke of the same notwithestandige by Gods goodnes escapid the danger of deathe.

This yeare one John Ockeley of Awburburie a husband ma' belonginge to Mr. Thomas Leighton whose tenan't he also was his howse was burnt throughe a kill & lost above c*li* for all was burnt.

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[1] Of Lee Hall, Langley and Acton Burnell, created a Baronet 1620. Arms :—*gu.* a fesse componée *or* and *az.* between 8 billets, 4 in chief and 4 in base *arg.* There are views in Mrs. S. Acton's *Garrisons and Mansions* of Lee Hall, Langley and Acton Burnell.

This yeare and the 17*th* daye of Maij beinge Saturday and as it fell owt thys yeare to be trynytie soonday eeve one master Thomas Leighton Esquire of Watelsboorow by Awburberie in the countie of Salop beinge capte' of all the traynyd men in Shroppshire and a woorthy stowt gentil' and welbelovid of ye whole shire who was woont to trayne the' in ye towne of Salop dep'tid this p'sent lyffe about ix of the clocke in the forenoone of the sayd day whose sowle God take to his mercy. Amen.

This yeare and about this tyme all kynnde of corne began to rise to say wheate at 7*s* rye at vs vj*d* otts at 2*s* 8*d* &^c^ and is feared will com to be deerar. the cause is iudgid that throughe the greate waunt of fodder and grasse many me' in most places were forsed to thrashe upp theire cornne from stoare to feed and save their cattell for they were willinge to delyv' one hallffe of their cattell to feed the oder and especially in Wales notwithstandi'ge great numbers of cattell dyed, the tyme of yeare was so hard that scant in the beginninge of May was any blossom of tree or grasse apeeringe to any good effect. God wee hope will mend it. Amen.

This yeare and the 17*th* daye of June the towne sessions in Shrewsberie of gaole deliv' was kept there then and those prison's y^t^ were there weare all savid savinge one whose name was David Davies a shoomaker & boarne in the sayde towne who was executid for murtheringe the ostelar of the redd lyon of the same towne who was all the tyme of his apprehencion and aboade in warde wickedlye and desperately mynded but goinge to his execuc'on mortified and dyed godly and patiently God bee prayseed.

This yeare 1600 and in the monthe of June cam from Loondon Sr Edward Lewekn' to be iustis of the counsell in the m'ches of Wales and toocke his place in the rowme of Sir Richard Shittelwoorthe discessyd beinge a verteous man and good to the poore.

This yeare & the 24 of June A^o^ p'd beinge Mydsomm' daye the good Esquire Tho'as Leighton of Watelsborowe in the countie of Salop, his funeral was solempnised there wth the number of all ye traynid souldiars of Salop in battell raye and most valiantly shott of their peces at the buriall and returninge thence in m'oinge aray departed acordinge to the usuall order of their champion and Capten as he was ov' them most pytifully to behold.

This yeare and the 31 of July was the grete assyse kept in Shrewsburie fallinge upon a Thursdaye beinge shireffe of the shire Mr. Humffrey Lea who cam in withe ye iudges upon

Wensday before in ye afternoone with a goodly company in brave order in the whiche assyses all those pryson's wch were cast had their boocks & were savid so there was non put awaye.

This yeare & the 3*th* daye of August beinge Soonday a Walshe boye of Thomas Gittins of Franckvill goinge in the morninge withe a trotting mare towarrds the fillde and rydinge uppon the same was throwne downe of hir uppon his head and so broosyd y^{t} he nev' spake woorde but dieed presently after.

1600-1 Mr. William Joanes & Mr. Tho'as Lewis Baylyffs.

This yeare & the thrid day of October 1600 beinge the Friday next after Myghelmas daye the usuall daye for the elect'on of the newe Baylyffs & offic's for the towne of Shreusburie were chossen the sayd Mr. Wm Joanes & Mr. Thomas Lewis beinge bothe Alderme' Baylyffs as y^{s} aforesayd & John Gittins butcher common sergia't and the other two sargiants were to say John Buttery weav' sergia't to Mr. Balyffe Joanes and Thomas Maninge draper s'giaunt to Mr. Baylyffe Lewis. And it is further to be notid y^{t} the Electors weare longe tyme in controv'sy in agreinge upon the commun sergiant beinge two in force of elect'on to saye John Gittins & Fraunc's Bettoon notwithstandinge at the ennd they all agreeid that their severall names shulld be bothe putt into the bagge and the towne clarcke to pull owt one of them and he y^{t} was by hym puld owt shulld be common sergia't and so he pullid owt the sayd John Gittins who had the office as aforesayd & so was all endid.

This yeare Henry Earle of Pembrooke beinge Lord President of the Marches of Wales departed this present lyfe in December A^{o} d'ni 1600 and was buried at London in Lennt followinge withe greate solempnitie he contynued in this sayd office but ye space of xiij^{te} yeares.

This yeare and in the moonthe of Januarie were apointed by the sayd Baylyffs serten to brewe beere and ale for the towne of Shrewsberry and to put downe all pan brewars especially commen alehouses that usedd bruinge but the inholders might yf they thought beast to brewe for the utterance and provision of them selves and intertayneme't of their gheasts.

This yeare and the 10*th* daye of February cam sertificats to all Sherreffs baylyffs and officers in hir m^{tis} name all England over and the sayde daye to the Baylyves of this Towne of Shrewsbery wth greate chardge in hir m^{tis} name for dilligent wetche and warde and to kepe theire towne and liberties in good order and peace, and to suppresse all tumowts, unlawfull assemblis and rebellion y^{t} might happen.

The xv*th* of Februarie cam downe to Shreusburie datid the 9*th* of February a p'clamacon as concerninge ye rysinge of the sayd Earle [of Essex] and disobedience used to my L. Keeper beinge chyffe iudge of England and others in lockinge them upp in his house beinge sennd for.

This yeare & the xxiij*th* of Marche was the greate assyse in Bridgenorthe beinge Shirreff for the shire Sr Frances Newport beinge a woorthy & a valiant man.

This yeare & in the beginninge of June corne was deare to say wheate at 8*s*. 6*d*. and rye at 7*s*. and for want of gresse & scarsnes of money all kinde of cattell resonably chepe as to say horses kyne and sheepe.

This yeare to say all the moonthe of June & July was extreeme hott drie and dustie y^t^ the grasse in many places for the most p't burnid verey sore that haye becam so deare to say 15*s*. 16*s*. 18*s*. & 20*s*. and upwards for the loade of heye as the loads were and smale gressinge for cattell.

This yeare and in these Baylyffs tymes the towne seassions of gaole delyvi' in Shreusberie was holden the xvj and xvij*th* daye of July where there were many prysoners but only one executed callyd Bowckley and the reast savid under the value but were poonnyshed and whippid.

This yeare & the 30 of July beinge Thursdaye the greate Assise was kept in Shreusburie wch contynewed 3 dayes beinge Shyrreffe of the Shire Sr Frances Newport, the iustices therof were Justes Walmsby & iustice Warberton bothe of the common place unto the wch assyse cam mutche people by reasonn of the fayre and sysses chanced to coom togeather notwithstandinge bothe gentill' & yome' sparid their purses money beinge scant and many beinge neere the towne cam on foote and the horseme' sutche as were made short karyeinge: the iudgs cam into the towne upon Thursdaye morninge and contynewyd unto Saterday eveninge and the' departed no further the' master Owens of Coondor at wch assyses were many prison's but were all savid. God graunt the' grace to amend Amen.

This yeare and the 6 day of August 1601 there were sowldiars sennt into Ireland owt of Shropshire to say the number of 50 wherof the towne & liberties did furnyshe and sennt 3 the names of whom were Thomas ap Thomas laborar Danyell Morris sherman and another of the liberties whose name was Edward Cloobb butcher dwellinge at Montfords bridge and dep'tid all towards Bristowe ye same daye.

This yeare and the 24 day of September A° pred' there were chose' in the castell of Salop knights for the shire Mr. Roger

Owen Esquire and Mr. Thomas Egertoon my Lord Keepers soon to gyve attendance on the parliment apointid to begin at Westmester the 24 of October next ensuinge but reiornid 3 days further.

1601-2 Rychard Hyggns & Thomas Joanes Baylyffs.

This yeare and ye secoond day of October 1601 beinge Fryday next after Mihelmas daye the usuall daye for ye election of the newe Baylyffes & offic's for the towne of Shrewsbery were chosen the sayd Mr. Rychard Hyggins tann' and Mr. Thom' Joanes soon unto Mr. William Joanes draper, Baylyffs and William Bowdelar sherma' common sergia't and the other two sergiants were Willyam Hurst shoomacker sergiant to Mr. Baylyff Hyggyns and Thomas Davis taylor s'gia't to Mr. Baylyff Joanes.

This yeare and the 6*th* daye of October 1601 beinge Teusday in the morni'ge was a lyttle howse of Thomas Jones shoomaker beinge upon the Walshe bridge over the water in Shreusberie som p't of it burnt withe fyer wch cam by myschance of the snoffinge of a caundle wherin he lost mutche of hys stuffe & apparrell to his greate hinderance & partly undoinge.

This yeare & ye 15*th* day of October beinge Thursday were chosen burgesses of the parlyment for the towne of Shreusberie Mr. Reignold Scryve' esquire and Mr. John Barker of Hamoonde in the choise of whom was greate adoe.

There is further to be noted the comen sargiant whiche was chossen this yere for the towne of Shreusbery Willia' Bowdelar by name as aforesayd after he had taken his othe wolld not be bonde to the same and gave ov' ye same and in his place was chose' and swoorne Robert Ball glov' who supplyethe the place for this yeare.

This yeare & the 29*th* daye of October one Mr. Roger Luter was buried in Saynt Chadds in Shreusbery who had ben thrise Baylyfe of the sayd towne and was also Alderma' &c but gave over his cloke because he gave hym selffe to dwell in the coontrey and toward his later dayes repayreed into the towne agayne where he dyeed, hee was 44 yeares ollde when he was fyrst made baylyfe wch was in ye yeare of o^r^ Lord God 1543 so y^t^ hee lyveed 90 yeares beinge a wisema' havinge his memory & speeche to ye last howre God be praysed who lyeth buried in the Lady Chappell as may apeere overheadd in sight the pictures or proporc'on of Lute's signifieinge his aw'cietris names whoo made the ruffe of the same beinge therunder buried he was a gentil' of smale launds yeat by his wisdoom countenance and wise governme't bare it owt wth sutche

credit that twise his betters did not bere the licke portt of humanytie.

This yeare and upon Christmas daye in the morninge throughe grete tempests of weather and rayne that Severn water did rise in the suburbs of Shreusberie into the inhabitants howses there wch contynewed 5 dayes together y^t^ the peaple there keapt a loft in theire chamberes withe sutche p'vision the had or coulld be brought to them by water and at the 5*th* dayes ennd began to fall that the inhabitants might goe downe to their howses, but w^th^in two days followinge it did rise agayne within a foote of the same height wch contynewid two dayes beinge a very hevye Christmas & discomfortable to the sayd inhabytaunts for it troublyd them sore in washinge downe their walles ovens & furnases to their greate hinderance & losses besides.

This yeare & the 28 daye of January beinge ye Thusday before Candelmas day A°. p'd Syvern water did ryse agayne into the said suburbes of Shrewsberie into those formar peoples howses but not so highe as the first water was by threequarte' of a yard and wennt downe the next day after but did smale hurtt, so that so often of risinge & slowinge of waters fyrst and last so neere together of sutche contynuance wth extreeme wyndes hathe not been seene this hundreed yeares before.

This yeare and the 8*th* of Marche was the greate assize for thys tyme keapt at Bridge northe beinge Shyrriffe of the shyre Mr. Francis Newtoon[1] who dyd welcom in the iudggs there very soberly and wysely to hys creadid.

This yeare and about the myds of Trynitie tearm beinge in June A°. p'd the Lord Edward Sowche was made Lorde President of the Marches of Wales who cam not downe unto Ludlow castell to take there his place before the 14*th* daye of August followinge God sennd hym longe lyffe to e'ioye the same wth m'cye & iustice Amen.

This yeare and the 19*th* daye of July was the greate assyze keapt in Shrewsburye but the iudgis cam in the day before conducted by the Sherref of the sayd shire whose name was master Francis Newton[2] very bravely brought in by hym beinge a sober and wyse gentilman whiche keapt an oppe' house bothe for victell and beere coom that coom woulld at whiche assize were condempned 4 persons wherof were but 3 executed and the fourthe beinge beggyd of the Judggs by the Shirref and freends was from the tree backe againe & savid.

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[1] [2] Of Heightley, grandson of Sir Peter Newton, Sheriff in 1503. Arms :—*arg.*, a cross formée fleury, *sa.* ends *or.*—Blakeway's *Sheriffs.*

This yeare and in this moonthe of August were men pressyd in Shropshire to say the number of 50 p'sonns for Irelaund of the wch number the towne of Shrewsberie did fynde two p'sonns.

This yeare and against Lammas daye were most p't of Englaund ov' p'vydid for one kinde of bushell afte' the order of London or Wynchester measure wch mesure is lesse than the olld usual bushell by a pecke so that the newe bushell is but three whoopes and after that order to be rebatid in the price of the olld bushell in Shreusber as also in other townes and places accordinge to their prises and sysees notw^th^standinge som towards Wales and Chester do stande against the altera-c'on because they say it was not agreid by p'lyme't the whiche is contrarie to reason seinge one equall measure ought to be all England ov' whiche is more commendable then one syze of measure in one place and a nother in another place to dyffer mutche from another and of sondry alterac'ons beinge under-nethe one prynce and iurisdic'on.

This yeare and in this moonthe of Septe'ber harvist was slacke beinge a weery harvest the tyme beinge most p't moyst that there was aboondance of gresse evi' where and the corne in many places cloggid with tarr and the wether so un-certayne that neyther corne nor heye cowld scant in season be takin in notwithstandinge for all that there was plenty al-thoughe the harvist was long and a late harvist by means wherof the newe lyttill bushell of wheate cam to 4*s.* 4*d.* and 4*s.* 8*d.* and so all other graine accordinge to the same rate, all garden seedes as onyons porwt beanes pease and other mounted all upp to the topp and cam to no p'fect perfect'on for lacke of warme and drie weather especially onynions wch roon upp into the blade that shulld have ben in the headd and the onyon seeds for lacke of drought and drye weather fell owt to be quassed and eaten wth birds that were greate losse in them, Smale store of mast, small store of aples peares and plumbs and especially in the coontreys of Worcester and Glocest' wch countreys were never woont to fayle so that those coontreys wch were woont to be refreshid withe greate store of cyder and perye now shall fayne to macke them drincke of mallt wch will cause mallt in those coontreys to be deere. Also hopps this yeare are scaunt in most places that the C weight was solld at Sturbridge fayre for x*li* and by retale here in Shrewsbery for ij*s.* ij*s.* 4*d.* and 3*s.* the pounde and non p'fett good to be gott'n the wch excessyve pryse were nev' hard of before.

This yeare uppon Mychaellmas even and the day also did fall a greate snowe and frost withe all whiche hathe ben silden

seene wch snowe did beate downe mutche corn whiche did then growe and hay lyeinge a broade but God be praysed did not longe tarrie but hinderid sore the latter ennd of harvist.

1602-3 Mr. John Perche Ald' & Mr. Roger Marshall Baylyffs.

This yeare 1602 and the first day of October beinge the Fryday next after Mycha^s day beinge the usuall day for the choosinge of newe Baylyffs for the towne of Salop the 25 persons that wennt in to the elect'on howse keapt there from Friday one of the clocke untill Saturday 6 of the clocke at night and at leangthe agreid and made Mr. John Pearche and Mr. Marshall Baylyffs as aforesayd and Rychard Fawckner corviser common sergiant and the other two sergiants were Andrew Warner taylor & Rychard Harris taylor to say Warner sergia't to master Baylyffe Pearche and Harris sergiant to Mr Baylyff Marshall.

This yeare and the 30 day of January A^o. 1602 beinge Soonday dep'tid this lyfe the woorthy Mrs. Elnor Myttoon late wyfe of Mr. Rychard Myttoon esquire shee was buried the Thursdaye followinge verey solumely beinge of the full adge of 90 yeares she was of greate birthe and verey good to the poore vertious & godly she wolld dayly pray most devoutly 3 whole howres before noon & 3 whoale howres in the afternoone & never stoore but those tymes uppon hir knees, the God of peace no doubt hathe rs^d hir to his m'cye Amen.

This yeare and the xiij*th* daye of Marche A^o 1602 beinge Munday the greate Assize was keapt in Shreusberye for the shire who was Sheirefe of the sayd shire Mr. Roger Kynnastoon[1] beinge iustes of peace dwellinge in Hordley who cam into the towne wth the iudgges the xiij*th* day of Marche in the after noone beinge the Soonday before wth a goodly company bothe of hys owne men in lyverey and his well willers & their retynewe about 250 p'soons keepinge a greate port in the sayde towne, there was so many prison's and number of Isiprics wch caused grett multituds of people to resort the whiche by the quicke dispatch of the sayd iugges sittinge early and late dispatched bothe the gaole & all by Wensday at noone and then dep'tid towards Stafford in the wch greate assize was condemnid but one man beinge Hughe ap Humfreys base soon of the Crigge' who was executed uppon Thursday in the morninge next followinge & a number burnid in ye haund.

[1] Grandson of Humphrey Kynaston ("Wild Humphrey"), of Marton in Lordship of Knockin, and great nephew of Sir Thos. Kynnaston, of Hordley, Sheriff in 1599. Arms:—*arg.*, a lion rampant, *sa.*, quartering *erm.*, a chevron *gu.*—Blakeway's *Sheriffs*.

There was a prentise of Salop ye 16 of Marche in holdinge the iudggis horses to be in a redynes against they dynid sore broosed by the fall of a rotten peece of tymber wch fell a lofte from under a wyndowe nere where the iudggis cam into dyner throughe ye leaninge owt of serten people to see the iudges com from the hall the wch prentise is in greate danger to recov' it.

This yeare and the 17*th* day of M'che there was a generall watche and commandid to be warely keapt bothe night and day wch is observyd in this towne of Shreusberye acordingely God save the Queenes M^tie Amen.

The 27 of Marche A^o p'dicto beinge Soonday Kinge James was proclaymid in the afternoone of the same daye in the towne of Shreusbery by the Baylyffs & Alderme' in theire skarlet gownes wth the woorshipfull and the rest of the commons wth sownde of troompets & droomes worthely and ioyfully in castinge up theire haundes and shakinge of hatts & capps in sainge God save kinge James. Amen.

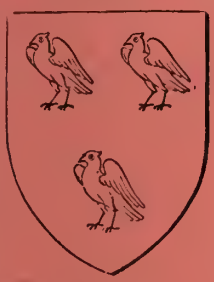
The 28 of Marche beinge Moonday the Sherriffe of Shropshire then beinge whose names was Justiece Kinnaston wth the Juistices and gentill' of the shire cam to Shreusbery wth theire greate horses and proclamyd there wth sownde of troompit in licke solemne man' for the shire to say James the first kinge of England France & Ireland &c.

This yeare in the later ennde of Marche and beginni'ge of Aprill the wynde dyd rise verey extreemly whiche did contynewe 4 dayes day & night wch did mutche hurt in many places.

This yeare and the 24*th* day of July A^o 1603 the counsell of the Marches of Wales cam to Shreusberye and the seale cam 4 dayes before and they contynewyd the tearme and vakant tyme till the 7*th* day of October followinge and so departid to Ludlowe wth seale and all wch was abowt a moonthe after Michalmas.

Such are the extracts which I have made from Dr. Taylor's quaint old MS. Chronicle relating to Shropshire generally, and especially to Shrewsbury. They cannot fail to amuse and interest the reader by their special phraseology, the minute particularity with which events, even those which to us appear trivial, are related, and the insight afforded into the circumstances, habits and customs of the writer's period. Very many incidents and events known from other

sources receive ample and particular confirmation. Many new and unknown circumstances and events are recorded, as for example, the cause of the burning of Shiffnal Church, the building of the Market Hall at Shrewsbury, the early supply of conduit water to the town of Shrewsbury, the purchase of the land on which the springs arise, and the gradual and successive way in which the conduiting apparatus was perfected, the benefactors to whom we owe this comfort, and many others which do not at a moment recur to recollection. The writer was evidently a contemporary of the circumstances which he details, and was a close observer of what occurred around him. This renders his narration the more valuable as relating to an age in which newspapers were not, and in which the every day occurrences of a provincial town would otherwise have sunk into utter oblivion. Words are often used in a peculiar and unusual sense—one only example may suffice, the word "murthered" being used indifferently of wilful or accidental death. On concluding our perusal, one cannot fail to exclaim in the oft-quoted expression of our great national poet, Shakspeare: "I could not wish a better chronicler than Griffiths."



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